

## US finds IRA arms link

Five Belfast men who were arrested trying to cross into the United States from Canada are suspected of being part of one of the IRA's most important gun-running rings. The United States Department of Immigration said the men were carrying nearly £10,000 in cash and were travelling on forged Irish passports. **Back page**

## Turnabout for number plates

Car number plates will use the present format in reverse when the series of suffix letters denoting year of registration expires next year. A typical plate could read: A 123 BCD. Driving test fees will be increased from £10.30 to £13 from the beginning of next month.

## Oil price cuts threat

An emergency meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is in prospect in order to discuss the dramatic state of price cutting that is threatening stability on world oil markets. **Page 15**

## School religion 'should stay'

A Commons select committee recommends the retention of the statutory provision to provide religious education to all pupils, and the continued existence of voluntary denominational schools. **Page 5**

## Poland reopens universities

Polish universities, which were closed after the imposition of martial law in December, reopened under strict new disciplinary regulations. The Polish authorities, meanwhile, have called for public discussion of a possible resumption of trade union activity. **Page 6**

## Question on lead is barred

Mr Jeff Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, has been stopped by Whitehall regulations from asking questions in Parliament about the enter on lead poisoning by Sir Henry Yelland, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, published in *The Times* yesterday. **Page 3**



## Woman's rape case setback

The Scottish Lord Advocate said he was unable to support an attempt by a Glasgow woman to bring a private prosecution against three teenage youths who allegedly raped her. The woman is at the centre of the controversy which led to the downfall of the former Scottish Solicitor General.

## Briton sought

Tokyo police are seeking a Briton who is missing after a hotel fire which killed 32 guests. The fire is believed to have started in his room on the ninth floor. **Page 3**

## England changes

England have dropped Marcus Rose and Huw Davies for the Rugby Union international against France in Paris on February 20. They are replaced by Nick Stringer and Les Cusworth. **Page 19**

Leader page, 11.  
Letters: On the Employment Bill, from Mr John Lyons; European Court of Justice, from Mr H. F. O. Bowsher; universities, from Mr R. G. Chapman.

Leading articles: Lead in petrol; Madrid conference; agricultural tenancies.  
Features, pages 9, 10.  
Britain's Trident dilemma; Rothchild's under Mitterrand; Jeremy Thorpe's new job; Fashion—Suzi Menkes looks at suits for spring.  
Obituary, page 12.  
Mr Ben Nicholson, OM, Mr John Hay Whitney.

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# Union reform Bill is backed by Williams

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Mrs Shirley Williams last night voted with the other SDP leaders in the Commons for the controversial Employment Bill which was condemned from the Labour front bench as a measure that would weaken the trade unions, damage industrial relations and bring about one of the most bitter and divisive periods within memory.

So, at its first important parliamentary test, the leadership of the Social Democrat and Liberal alliance presented a united front in support of industrial relations legislation, even though some of the rank and file diplomatically absented themselves from the division.

There was a lively start to the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill, as Mr William Rodgers, for the SDP, and one of the gang of four, battled to make himself heard.

Indeed, the attention paid to the alliance by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, and by Mr Eric Varley, Labour's spokesman, both of whom poured scorn on the position of the SDP, can only be taken as an indication of the fact that the new partnership is held by the two main parties in the House.

None of this, however, could disguise the difficulty for Mr Rodgers of having to support legislation while at the same time still appearing as the friend of the trade unions.

To loud jeers from the Labour benches Mr Rodgers told the House that he was a recent convert to legislation of this kind. His conversion had come during the winter of 1978-79, when events in the steel industry made it absolutely decisive in making his decision. He would never have believed that trade unionists would refuse to sand the roads at a risk to life or would prevent people from entering hospital or would refuse to bury the dead.

Yet all those things had happened and he now believed that the Government's Chief Medical Officer, published in *The Times* yesterday, was absolutely right and necessary.

## BR loss running to £150m, unions told

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

British Rail last night told union leaders that it was rapidly running out of money because of the train drivers' strikes, now in their fifth week and expected to last for a further two or three weeks. The losses now running at more than £50 million. Meanwhile the committee of inquiry into the dispute meets for the first time this morning to take evidence in spite of the footplatemen's refusal to attend.

Mr Peter Parker, BR chairman, said that an approach to the Government would be made in 14 days for permission to borrow extra funds to meet the losses now running at more than £50 million. The decision to proceed without the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) was agreed by Lord McCarthy and the other two inquiry members, Mr George Doughty, former white collar engineering union leader, and Mr Ted Chappin, executive director of Esso, after discussions over the weekend.

Mr Peter told a meeting of the Rail Council, the industry's highest consultative body, which was held yesterday by ASLEF that BR was at the moment exceeding its external financing limit (the borrowing ceiling set by the Government) by more than £50 million.

If the strikes continue throughout this month, the £920m external financing limit will be exceeded by £90m. Permanent losses of traffic represented revenue shortfalls of between £50m and £150m, the unions were told.

After the meeting Mr Tom Jenkins, general secretary of the TSSA, said that he believed the strikes and subsequent losses would lead to cuts in railway wages, station closures and job losses. "I am very worried about the situation," Mr Jenkins said.

The two unions and members of the British Railways Board who attended the meeting agreed that the inquiry should write to Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, seeking a meeting when the strikes are over to discuss electrification.

Mr Ray Buckton, ASLEF general secretary, said last night that his union had decided not to attend the Rail Council meeting because "we felt in the present situation it would be hypocritical" for BR to call a meeting to explain its financial position when it could quickly solve the dispute by honouring the agreement to pay 3 per cent from January and putting the productivity dispute into the normal negotiating machinery.

However, BR officials last night remained adamant that they would not consider paying the 3 per cent until it was clear that ASLEF would honour productivity agreements, particularly on flexible rostering.

Lord McCarthy said yesterday that the inquiry team felt it would not be practical to make a further attempt to persuade ASLEF to co-operate with the inquiry. The union had objected to the terms of reference and its own suggestions for the lines the inquiry should adopt were rejected by BR and the other two unions.



Sir Freddie's flying squad buzzes London

Cheerful anarchy ruled in some of the more select parts of London yesterday as Laker Airways staff briefly forgot their cares in a motley assault on the seats of power (David Nicholson-Lord writes). Wave after wave of stewardesses and flight crew rolled in from Gatwick by coach to converge on Whitehall, Westminster,

Downing Street and the Stock Exchange. They lobbied MPs, sang songs, handed in petitions and stuck yellow "I'm a Laker-Liker" badges on anything that moved. Mainly, however, they milled. Milling began near the Cenotaph in mid-morning and ended around the Commons towards dusk. It climaxed when six staff handed in

a petition and open letter at 10 Downing Street, Miss Lisa Holden, a stewardess, described public response as amazing and overwhelming. Fifty thousand signatures had been handed in and millions more were being collected. Unfortunately the petition did not say anything. "There's no actual wording," one Laker girl

said. "We're just trying to generate enthusiasm." Mr Simon Boston's open letter to Mrs Thatcher asks her for a small private donation. But on a day when even policemen signed petitions, one poster summed it all up. Below a cardboard cut-out of the Skytrain and a large Union flag was the single word: "Help!"

## Bank drops scheme to rescue Laker

By Michael Clark

The Orion Royal Bank has failed in its attempt to save Laker Airways from the clutches of the Receiver.

A statement from Mr Christopher Chetwynd, the bank's deputy chairman, said it had been unable to reconcile the interests of the different groups of creditors, so the reconstruction of Laker Airways had proved impossible in the time available.

The bank had been given just a couple of days to raise £35m with a consortium of British and North American financiers to keep Laker flying for another year, thereby saving off creditors who are owed a total of £70m.

Part of Orion's plan would have been to inject the £35m into the company and then get the banks and other creditors to abide by the rescheduling arrangements reached before Christmas. The remaining creditors would be asked to convert some of their debts into preference shares.

Mr Chetwynd said his bank had received an excellent response to its approach to individual institutions and individuals and this convinced him that new equity could be underwritten, but it also became clear that it was impossible for some of the

## 'Times' to close unless 600 jobs go

By Donald Macdonald, Labour Correspondent

Mr Rupert Murdoch said yesterday that *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* would be closed down unless union agreements to a fresh 600 redundancies could be reached within "days rather than weeks".

In a letter sent last night to the company's 2,600 full-time employees, Mr Murdoch says that the reductions are essential to deal with a "major crisis" in which *Times Newspapers* limited is expected to show a loss of £15m for this year.

The letter, hand-delivered yesterday to senior national officials of the print unions, said that as *Times Newspapers* stood they were "bleeding to death".

The new move, which comes after a week of discussions between Mr Murdoch and his senior managers at TNL, follows the company's failure to make headway with talks on fresh cuts since Mr Murdoch's warning last November that new agreements on manning levels were urgently needed.

The company intends to begin immediate negotiations with union chiefs (office branches) to seek agreement on voluntary redundancies if possible. The letter says: "The alternative is no work for anyone and only the minimum pay off."

Before flying back to New York last night, Mr Murdoch left senior executives in little doubt that he wanted the bulk of negotiations to be completed within a fortnight, at most, and within 30 days if possible. The company is to give formal notice of redundancies to the Department of Employment.

Mr Murdoch has also indicated that if the talks do not make the required progress TNL would be put in the hands of the official receiver. There was uncertainty last night whether if that happened the receiver would have the titles of *Times Newspapers* Ltd at his disposal for sale.

The redundancies required will be over and above the cuts in 523 full-time jobs agreed when Mr Murdoch's company, News International, took over TNL in February, 1981. The company declined to specify full details of where the bulk of the redundancies are intended to fall, but the largest single group is likely to be the clerical members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel.

Mr Murdoch's letter says that the total clerical complement across the papers is currently 671 men and women, excluding managers and juniors, compared with a clerical total for *The Observer* and *The Guardian* together of 221.

In the starkest terms he has used since the take over last year, Mr Murdoch says that the TNL finances are so desperate that they have forced News International, which includes *The Sun* and the *News of the World* and associated companies to go into overall loss.

## The earl, the coal man and the art premium

By Frances Gibb

Artists in London are dealers and auction houses are dealers in art. The cause could be described as the "Western connection", arising from a letter in *The Times* of February 3 by a Mr E. B. Leisenring Jr, a new name in the auction world, who came out unequivocally in favour of the auction houses.

"I would like, as an American, to make a few observations," he wrote. "Those were in short that his family and friends, long-standing buyers of Christie's and Sotheby's in New York, assured him there had been precious little criticism of the buyer's premium on the hammer price there."

Mr Leisenring does not earn a living buying art, auction houses. But it turns out that he is a director of the Westmoreland Coal Company in Philadelphia, together with Lord Westmoreland, Master of the Queen's Horse and chairman of Sotheby's.

Both are also co-directors of the "Atlantic" he went on to say. "The degree of that connection," he continued, "was such that it might be said that a slight over-representation for fair play enjoyed by London journalists."

Mr Leisenring was asked in his letter in *The Times* yesterday, did he earn a living from buying at either Sotheby's or Christie's? For if he did not, 75 per cent of auction buyers did, he pointed out.

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Text of letter, page 2

## Attack on Poland splits West at security talks

From Richard Wing, Madrid, Feb 8

Several Western nations today expressed their opposition to endangering the Madrid, Spain, fundamental and "perhaps fatal threat" to the peace in the Balkans.

The foreign ministers of Canada and Spain, the host nation, have taken up positions aiming to keep the conference going, substantially ignoring what lay behind Mr Haig's declaration.

Mr Mark McGugin, the Canadian Foreign Minister, said that the conference should not break up. He said that the conference should not break up. He said that the conference should not break up.

Mr Jose Wieszcz, the Polish Deputy Foreign Minister, who will preside over tomorrow's first plenary session, is reported to have said in Warsaw that his country would not take part if it were attacked. But

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## Iranian guerrilla commander 'shot and killed'

By Our Foreign Staff

Iranian Revolutionary Guards have shot and killed Mr Musa Khatibani, the Mujahedin commander, at a hide-out in north Tehran, according to Iran radio yesterday. Mr Khatibani's wife and 10 other members of the central leadership were also killed, it said, including the wife of Mr Masoud Rajavi, the exiled Mujahedin leader.

Informed sources believe that the report is true, and that if so it represents an important success against the rebels.

The Tehran authorities allege that guerrillas under Mr Khatibani carried out the bombings that killed several Iranian leaders last year.

## Thorpe's new job causes a stir

By Lucy Hodges

The appointment of Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, to be the new director of the British section of Amnesty International was greeted with shock by members of the organization yesterday.

Mr Cosmas Desmond, the former director who was dismissed after internal quarrels, was amazed. "He is the last person I would have thought of," he said. "He's a political high flier and there is a lot of grudge in that sort of job."

"When I last of job," he said, "they were looking for someone who was a very efficient office manager, a sort of executive whizz-kid, and I don't think Thorpe fits that description."

Mr Thorpe, who starts work next month at a salary believed to be between £12,000 and £15,000, was in Luxembourg yesterday and unavailable for comment. It is his first job since he was acquitted at the Central Criminal Court in 1979 of conspiracy and incitement to murder.

The job, for which there were 41 other candidates and a shortlist of four, was offered to Mr Thorpe on Sunday. Mr Roger Brinkley, chairman of Amnesty's ruling council, said that the former Liberal MP for North Devon, had a deep feeling and understanding of human rights.

"He was associated with Amnesty International when it was set up 20 years ago and so has a clear understanding of our aims," he said. "We believe that he is a man with new ideas and drive. We are in a period of expansion and we feel that Mr Thorpe is the type of man we want. He will put his ideas into practice."

Man for the job? Page 10

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## Do not cheat on benefits, Tories told

Unemployment benefit should be restored to its value at November, 1979, to prevent the Conservative Party being seen to cheat, a Bow Group pamphlet argues today. It also calls for child benefits to be raised by £1.50 a week to improve work incentives (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

The pamphlet says that the 2 per cent shortfall in unemployment and supplementary benefits last November should be made good both on the grounds of fairness and political self-interest. The benefits, the pamphlet says, are now worth less than at any time in the past decade. "The last thing we can afford is to be accused of dishonesty".

## Ear injury men win £25,000

A High Court case in which four government radio operators sued over ear injuries caused by secret radar monitoring was settled yesterday on payment of damages totalling £25,000.

Mr Alexander Runciman, aged 65, of Chirk, Wrexham, now retired, received an agreed £10,000, and Mr Norman Johnson, aged 60, of Scally, Scarborough, £5,000. Mr Robert Harry Hayward, of Wellington, Somerset, accepted £5,500.

Mrs Jean Todd Cortam, of Shafesbury, Dorset, who sued on behalf of her husband, Jeffery, who died in 1980, received £3,500.

The four, who also received costs, worked for the Government communications headquarters in Britain and abroad. Their duties involved long hours of listening to a variety of signals, some disguised at very loud volumes.

## 'Times' lorry in fatal crash

A lorry driver was killed and two men were injured in a collision involving five lorries, including one from *The Times*, on the M6 motorway near Sandbach, Cheshire, early yesterday. The dead man was Mr Terence Alexander Easchus, of Middleton, Manchester. The two injured were drivers for *The Times*. As a result of the crash copies of the newspaper were not delivered in Greater Manchester, parts of Lancashire and southern Cumbria.

Mr Norman Snow sustained leg and spine injuries and Mr Raymond Stevens suffered head injuries. Both were detained in hospital in Crewe.

## Rice-Davies divorce

Mandy Rice-Davies, aged 36, the actress who was involved in the Profumo scandal in the 1960s, was divorced from her second husband, Mr Charles Lefevre, a restaurateur, in the Divorce Court in London yesterday. The decree nisi was by consent on the grounds of two years' separation.

## Police spending puts pressure on fire services

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Britain's cities will have to make even bigger cuts in services if the police are exempt from savings and the Government does not revise expenditure decisions, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities has told Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary.

Greater Manchester would be one of the least affected but police exemption would mean redundancies in other services, including firemen, so that the council would not be able to discharge all its statutory functions.

The figures have been produced to show the Government that its financial restrictions are having a serious effect on the police, which have already threatened cuts of up to 5,000 people in six key police forces.

The Labour-controlled association represents the Greater London Council and the metropolitan councils of Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West and South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and the West Midlands.

The association says the Metropolitan Police in London will get money at their expense, thus harming attempts to carry out Lord Scarman's recommendations in the wake of last summer's riots.

It has received a letter from the Home Office saying it has approached the Department of the Environment about the sharing of the Metropolitan Police "and the possibility of making a reduction is being looked at urgently".

Figures sent to Mr Whitelaw show that the Metropolitan Police share of resources would increase by 24 per cent in 1982.

83, compared with a 3.4 per cent increase for other forces. At a meeting between association leaders and Mr Whitelaw on January 26 they raised the issue of meeting costs for riot damages and of policing the Pope's visit.

The Home Office says the Government cannot pay for all riot damage, but "we are examining the possibility of detailed amendments within the framework of the scheme which has been proposed".

The Home Office's "first reaction" is that any extra costs because of the Pope's visit "will have to lie where they fall, as in the case of policing any other public event. The expenditure will, of course, qualify for police grants".

The figures are intended to arm Mr Whitelaw for a Cabinet battle before the association seeks a meeting with the Prime Minister.

If the police are exempt from cuts and the Government's overall target is to be met, cuts in other services would increase as follows: Greater Manchester by 37.1 per cent; Merseyside 35.8 per cent; South Yorkshire 18.6 per cent; Tyne and Wear 22.3 per cent; West Midlands 26.3 per cent; West Yorkshire 31.2 per cent.

The size of the cuts would range from 8.3 per cent in South Yorkshire to 37 per cent in West Midlands.

An across-the-board cut of 8.3 per cent, excepting the police, in South Yorkshire would mean 550 redundancies, including 70 firemen.

## Protest group lose case against motorway

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

North Kent villagers failed yesterday to persuade a High Court judge to overthrow government plans to build nine miles of motorway through the scenic Darent Valley. Mr Justice Woolf decided there were few instances in which courts would intervene in road planning disputes.

He ruled that the Government had given the villagers a chance to make late objections to the Swanley-Sevenson section of the M25 orbital motorway around London. The Darent and North Downs Action Group and other voluntary organisations alleged that ministers had acted improperly in fixing the route for the M25 before disclosing plans already agreed internally for slip roads near by.

The Government claimed that the motorway section was needed to relieve pressure on the A225. The pressure on the A225, the Government's route for the M25 is parallel to the existing line of the A225. The action group complained that soon after basing its case for the M25 on relieving the A225.

The judge said he had some sympathy with the objectors. The pivot of his judgment, foreshadowed in the hearing in January, was that the courts would be unlikely to intervene in such disputes unless ministers were clearly shown to have acted extremely unreasonably.

Other four operators told a similar story: Cosmos said so many bookings came in over the weekend that staff had not had time to count them.



Turning to jelly: Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe (left), preparing to sample some jellied eels in Parliament Square yesterday. The eel stall was publicizing a sponsored walk from the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.

## Bank's Laker rescue plan fails

Continued from page 1

Mr Mackay said it was possible that the two subsidiaries could be in new hands by late this evening as it was essential that their future was assured before public confidence was affected.

He will then turn his attention to Skytrain and Laker's 11 DC10's and three Airbus A300's worth around £200m. The market for second-hand aircraft remains depressed and they may have to be sold well below their current value.

Thousands of package holidays booked through Laker Travel and Arrowswish have been switched to other tour operators. This will already have led to some erosion in the market value—around £2—of the subsidiaries for which the Receiver is considering offers. When Laker crashed on Friday the two subsidiaries had around 150,000 firm bookings (Derek Harris, Our Commercial Editor, writes).

Thomson Holidays, biggest of the package tour operators, took around £4m worth of bookings on Saturday, about three times normal daily business, and the equivalent of 15,000 holidays, as travel agencies rushed to switch holiday bookings out of the Laker companies.

Other tour operators told a similar story: Cosmos said so many bookings came in over the weekend that staff had not had time to count them.

## Heathrow threat

Passengers on British Airways' domestic and European flights may face disruption at Heathrow airport, London, today. Nearly 2,000 ramp workers have said they will walk out if any action is taken against staff who fail to adopt new rosters and working practices they say are being implemented so that the airline can be sold to a private buyer.

Thomson, was advising inquiries to take an option on alternative holidays until the Laker subsidiaries' future was clarified. Thomson is not asking for an immediate deposit should holidaymakers want to say with the Laker subsidiaries if they are revived under a new owner.

Thomson, which has been putting together a programme of extra holidays from Manchester and Gatwick to substitute for Laker traffic from these two airports, said that it must prove more difficult later to secure seats to match holidays at the peak summer period.

Cosmos so far sees no such problem. The company is already seeking an extra 5,000 hotel beds at popular destinations which would give a holiday capacity through the season of about 80,000. Thomas Cook travel agencies

have already switched to alternative operators for most of their customers' 12,500 Laker holidays.

Spanish destinations are the most popular for the coming summer, according to Pickford, with Italy also increasing in popularity. Demand for Greek and American holidays is low.

A summer market at least 5 per cent down on last year's buoyant market is still being forecast.

Sir Freddie, who has not been seen in public since the crash, was announced on Friday, spent most of yesterday at a private hearing before a High Court Family Division judge. His American-born third wife Lady Laker was also present (The Press Association reports).

Sir Freddie told reporters that he had been overwhelmed by the public response to his business plight and the attempts being made to save the airline. "I just love you all", he said.

Lady Laker refused to comment as she left the Court. The hearing, before Mr Justice Eastham, is expected to continue tomorrow.

The couple married in 1975 but their marriage problems have been in the news in recent months. They have a four-year-old son, nicknamed Little Fred.

What Laker has to sell, page 17

## 'Deadly fire hazard' at Albert Hall

By Tony Samstag

Mr James Tye, director general of the British Safety Council, the man who caused a certain amount of hilarity by warning of a potential fire disaster in St Paul's Cathedral during the royal wedding last year, has struck again, this time at the Albert Hall, in London.

At a press conference in London yesterday it was his contention that the hall will inevitably become a crematorium for large numbers of its 6,900 capacity audience unless its management mends its ways.

The management's approach to fire safety in the hall is "theoretical, unsatisfactory and dangerous", according to Mr Tye.

An investigation by the safety council, which is registered with the Charity Commission as a "non-profit-making association", last month "revealed a very real danger of catastrophe, with locked fire doors, obstructions, inadequate fire precautions and a lack of understanding on the part of management of how fire and people threatened by fire behave".

During a boxing tournament at the hall in November Mr Tye found the main door and adjacent fire exits locked. The management admits that some exits are locked sometimes, but maintains that there are still more than enough staff to free them and other exits.

The London Fire Brigade, which says it regularly advises the hall, adds that fire exits are in any case a matter for the architect's department of the Greater London Council, which is not mentioned in the safety council's report.

"In our experience management have always put right whatever we find is wrong," Mr Mike Doherty, chief staff officer for the fire brigade, adds.

As virtue of its royal charter, the hall is exempt from the Fire Precautions Act, 1971; or, as Mr Tye puts it, the management "consider they are outside the law and that the fire authority can only sue for nuisance".

That remark would seem something of an exaggeration, as the hall is exempt from the Fire Precautions Act, 1971; or, as Mr Tye puts it, the management "consider they are outside the law and that the fire authority can only sue for nuisance".

More importantly, there was little difficulty in obtaining plants of normal appearance from planters sprouting from infected roots. So far there is no direct evidence that the plants and plants grown from them contain bacterial genes, but the fact that they too accumulate the distinctive biochemicals of crown gall tumours and hairy roots is highly suggestive.

Source: *Nature* (vol 295, p 432), February 4, 1982.

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A locked fire hydrant, for fire brigade use only.

## Times group 'bleeding to death', Murdoch says

The following is the text of a personal message to all staff of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Limited.

I am writing to you—and every member of the staff—to tell you about the state of our business. Times Newspapers Limited stands today.

You will say you have heard of Times crises before. And you are right. But this time is different. It is not just a crisis of revenue, but a crisis of survival.

I say to you here that if the crisis facing us today is not resolved within days rather than weeks our newspapers will have to be closed.

And this comes at a time when our revenues are at an all-time low.

How, you will ask, can such a situation come about?

Put at its simplest, outgoings are exceeding revenue to a point where the company is losing at the rate of £12m a year.

Due to interruptions, both internal and external, together with delays in implementing previous agreements, the loss this year will be £15m not counting the cost of redundancies.

Of course, other factors are involved—newsprint costs, exchange rates, the general economic climate over which we have no direct control.

But far and away the most dramatic contribution to our losses comes from the fact that we are employing far more people than our competitors and we need to produce our newspapers.

On our payroll are 2,600 full-time employees, plus 2,950 single staff and workers. Very few executives work a five-day week.

To give ourselves a future we must reduce our 6,000 employees over and above those agreed one year ago. Most must go at once. Others will be phased out fairly quickly with the introduction of cold-type composing.

Your immediate questions will be: "Who is to go? How are they to be chosen?" How are they to be chosen? How are they to be chosen?

Those are matters which the management have asked your chapel officers to discuss as soon as possible.

On our side we are prepared to pay for these redundancies as a further expensive but vital investment in our future. We hope they will be voluntary.

## Science report

## Harnessing disease to introduce new genes

By the Staff of "Nature"

The discovery that a plant root disease is the result of the integration of genetic material from an infectious bacterium has opened a way in which breeders could introduce new genes into plants.

The discovery, the outcome of several years of research by Dr Mary-Dell Chilton and Dr Jacques Tempe, has been completed at the Versailles-based Station de Genetique et d'Amélioration des Plantes. Both researchers have been studying a system in which bacterial genes are inserted into those of the plants they infect, causing crown gall tumours to appear on the plants.

Much effort has been spent on trying to understand the molecular basis of this disease in the hope that it could be exploited by plant breeders, perhaps by using infectious bacteria to carry new genes into plants.

Previous attempts to use the crown gall system have failed because at some stage normal plants have to be grown from tumour tissue. Hitherto it has not been possible to do this reproducibly, so Dr Tempe, Dr Chilton and their colleagues turned to the disease of carrots called hairy root disease.

This disease is caused by a bacterium closely related to the agent of crown gall disease, and because the diseased roots contain the distinctive biochemicals that accumulate in crown gall tumours, it seemed likely that bacterial genes are also integrated into carrot roots.

Dr Tempe's team tested that expectation by infecting small pieces of carrot with the hairy root disease bacterium. Crown gall under suitable laboratory conditions, the segments of carrot soon sprouted roots and it was possible to show that bacterial genes were incorporated into the plant genes of those roots.

More importantly, there was little difficulty in obtaining plants of normal appearance from planters sprouting from infected roots. So far there is no direct evidence that the plants and plants grown from them contain bacterial genes, but the fact that they too accumulate the distinctive biochemicals of crown gall tumours and hairy roots is highly suggestive.

Source: *Nature* (vol 295, p 432), February 4, 1982.

© *Nature-Times News Service*, 1982.

The following is the text of a personal message to all staff of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Limited.

I am writing to you—and every member of the staff—to tell you about the state of our business. Times Newspapers Limited stands today.

You will say you have heard of Times crises before. And you are right. But this time is different. It is not just a crisis of revenue, but a crisis of survival.

I say to you here that if the crisis facing us today is not resolved within days rather than weeks our newspapers will have to be closed.

And this comes at a time when our revenues are at an all-time low.

How, you will ask, can such a situation come about?

Put at its simplest, outgoings are exceeding revenue to a point where the company is losing at the rate of £12m a year.

Due to interruptions, both internal and external, together with delays in implementing previous agreements, the loss this year will be £15m not counting the cost of redundancies.

Of course, other factors are involved—newsprint costs, exchange rates, the general economic climate over which we have no direct control.

But far and away the most dramatic contribution to our losses comes from the fact that we are employing far more people than our competitors and we need to produce our newspapers.

On our payroll are 2,600 full-time employees, plus 2,950 single staff and workers. Very few executives work a five-day week.

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On our side we are prepared to pay for these redundancies as a further expensive but vital investment in our future. We hope they will be voluntary.

As Times Newspapers Limited stands today, we are quite literally bleeding to death.

I have been asked why we do not increase our revenues by putting up advertising rates and the price of our papers.

My answer is that we have, in fact, already put our rates up considerably and the cover price of *The Sunday Times* is going up another 5p on February 21.

To go any further would not only make us uncompetitive and our situation even worse, but we would be asking the public to pay for our extravagance.

To illustrate the scale of the problem we face, let me tell you about the staffing in our clerical

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- Tapes, Vernier Calipers, Balances and Other Measuring and Weighing Apparatus
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Take that: Lord Bethell (centre) serving his writ on Mr Joseph Claessens, of Sabena.

## Lord Bethell sues airline over fares

By John Witherow

Lord Bethell issued a writ against Sabena, the Belgian airline, yesterday accusing them of overcharging him £50 for a return ticket to Brussels.

He walked into Sabena's Piccadilly offices to deliver the writ, summoning the airline's representatives to appear at Wandsworth County Court, in south London.

Lord Bethell, European MP for London, North-west, flies regularly to Brussels, paying £25 for an economy return ticket. He estimates that is about £50 too much and is suing Sabena for overcharging him £25 and 85 of the Treaty of Rome, which ensure free competition in the EEC.

"I have been trying for seven years to get air fares reduced by parliamentary means," he said. "It has not worked, so I am going to take recourse to the law."

Lord Bethell decided to take action against Sabena because he said the airline and the Belgian Government rejected a

British Caledonian suggestion for a lower fare.

Lord Bethell is also taking action at the European Court in Luxembourg to try to force airlines to adhere to the free competition clauses in the Treaty of Rome.

Mr Trevor Williams, Sabena's solicitor, said the jurisdiction of the claim might be in question because of the foreign element in the case.

Mr Joseph Claessens, Sabena's general manager in this country, said: "Lord Bethell has been flying with Sabena for six years and has never made a complaint. He is also a member of the Sabena Business Club, which gives him preferential treatment."

British Airways, which has been criticised for opposing Lord Bethell's cheaper fares campaign, is strongly in favour of cutting prices. Mr Roy Watts, the airline's chief executive, declared last night (Michael Bailey writes).

"The cost of providing scheduled European air ser-

vices could and should be brought down," he said in the Chartered Institute of Transport's Brancaster Memorial Lecture in London.

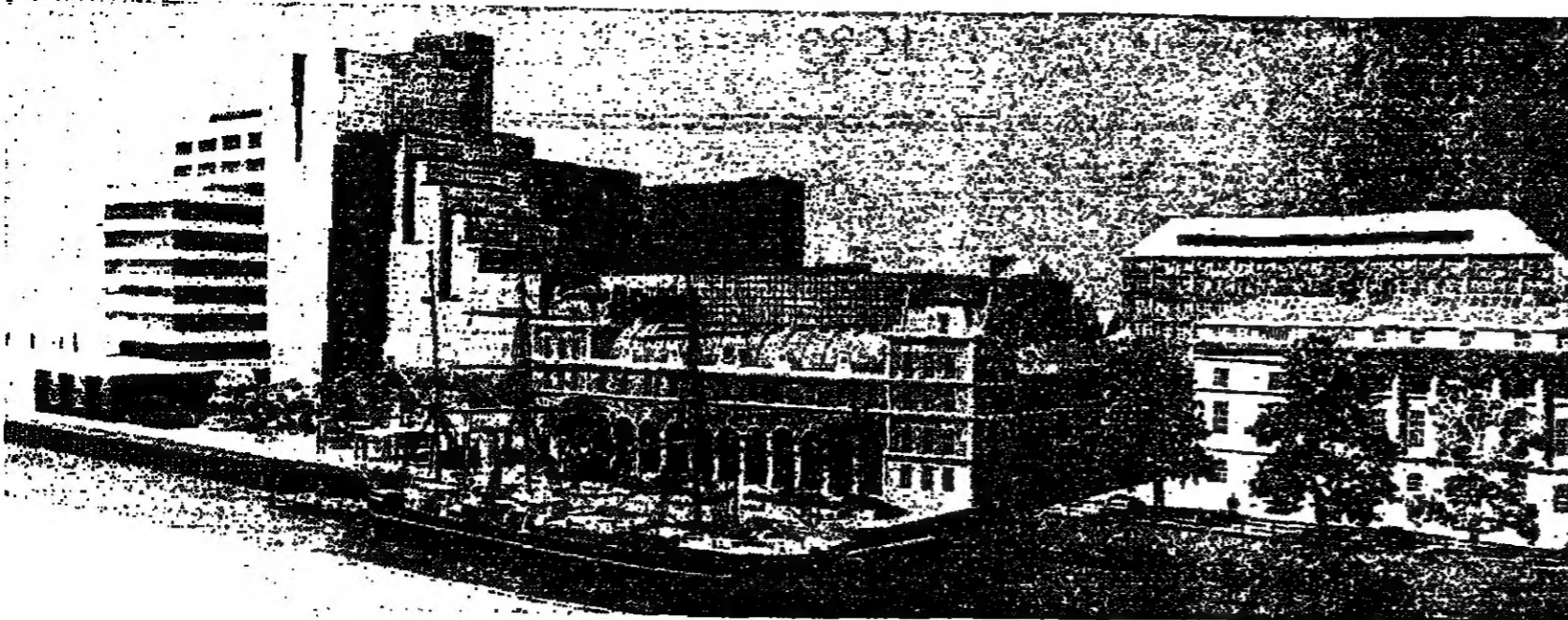
British Airways, which says it is opposing Lord Bethell because his approach is seeking to introduce "Channel-Hopper" fares into Europe, at half the current price.

But that requires the co-operation of European airlines and governments, which is not forthcoming. "I believe our partners in Europe recognize the pressures the industry is facing and they, too, are planning improvements," Mr Watts said.

He gave cautious approval to Britain's Civil Aviation Authority's policy of controlled competition.

Mr Watts predicted 600-seat jumbo jets on the busiest routes within ten years, and 60-seat helicopter ferry shuttles between London and Continental cities.

Dinner guests, page 12



## £75m plan will preserve Billingsgate tradition

This 12-storey office block will be built next to the former Billingsgate fish market, in London, if the City Corporation accepts a planning application disclosed yesterday, writes Hugh Clayton. London & Edinburgh Investment Trust and the S and W Berisford food company said in their joint application

for a £75m development that they would preserve the listed façades of the 110-year-old market. They will also open the site before development to archaeologists, since evidence of a Roman quay and a Saxon harbour has been found near by. Sales of fresh fish have fallen sharply in the past 20

years as demand has switched to fish fingers and other processed foods. The market has now moved to London's disused dockland, and the old building near London Bridge will be used for offices. It might house the trading floor of the London Commodity Exchange, and

extend a tradition of markets on the site since Saxon times.

"The core of the present-day building is in a very poor state of repair", the developers said. "The proposals allow for the River Thames and Lower Thames Street façades to be retained and refurbished".

## BMA may seek petrol lead cut

By John Witherton

The British Medical Association's Board of Science yesterday described lead taken into the human body as a serious public health hazard and said it may press for further cuts in the amount of lead in the environment.

The BMA's statement was released after a confidential letter was published in *The Times* yesterday from Sir Henry Yellowless, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, who gave a warning that lead in petrol was permanently reducing the IQ of many children.

A spokesman for the BMA said: "On the basis of past scientific evidence the Board of Science believes that lead taken into the human body is a serious public health hazard. The board believes that all sources of lead pollution should be eliminated wherever possible."

The evidence will be put before the BMA council on March 3, when it is likely that further action will be taken. That could mean gathering more medical evidence or making representations.

Professor Thomas Oppé, a paediatrician at St Mary's Hospital Medical School and one of the doctors on the board examining the evidence on lead poisoning, added: "The Board of Science is convinced that the level of exposure to lead can be a cause of brain damage. Every effort should be made to reduce lead levels in the environment."

However, medical evidence on lead has been questioned. Mr Giles Shaw, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said that until more convincing evidence was available the present steps to reduce lead in petrol appeared adequate.

Sir Henry's letter to Whitehall chiefs, giving warning that "some hundreds of thousands of children" were at risk, was sent on March 6 last year. On May 11 the Government announced that lead in petrol would be reduced gradually from 0.40 to 0.15 grams a litre by 1985.

The lead content in petrol is still 0.40g a litre. Australia, the United States, the Soviet Union and Japan have all eradicated lead from petrol. Sir Shaw said that would not be possible in Britain by 1985.

The medical evidence was also questioned by Mr Anthony Fraser, director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers, who said on BBC Radio: "We believe the medical evidence is unanimous. It is divided."

"Motor manufacturers could produce cars that run on lead-free petrol but they are less efficient, likely to consume more fuel and they are generally not as good performers."

Mr Douglas Harvey, director general of the Petroleum Industry Association, said only the government could decide to remove lead from petrol.

□ The Government is to be asked to publish all the evidence on which it based its decision last year to reduce but not eliminate lead in petrol. (Our Political Reporter writes). The request will be made today by Mr Dennis Howell, Opposition spokesman on environmental pollution, when he meets Mr Shaw.

The Government's decision last year gradually to reduce lead in petrol was attacked by the Opposition and other critics who said that the Government should have eliminated lead.

At their meeting today, Mr Howell will tell Mr Shaw that Sir Henry's letter, highly relevant in view of his position as the Government's leading medical advisor, should have been made available to Parliament with all the other evidence at the time the decision was announced.

Government departments repeated yesterday the Sir Henry's views were known at the time of the decision and that his letter was one of the many points considered.

The Government's view was set out by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, last Friday, and has not been changed, it was said yesterday, by the publication of Sir Henry's letter.

Mr Clarke said last week that the Government would not hesitate to take tougher measures over lead levels "if the balance of evidence does tip in that direction", but he said that at present the

scientific evidence remained equivocal. He commented: "I am not convinced that it is for the time being realistic to go beyond the impressive action already taken by the Government."

□ The campaign to remove lead from petrol has moved into top gear after the disclosure of Sir Henry's letter. (Our Science Editor writes).

His advice was rejected for commercial reasons. Liquid lead may be added to petrol under the regulations. The issue looks as if it should be easy to resolve. Lead has no place in the human body. It is harmful if absorbed, unlike other elements which are poisonous in large amounts but are essential in trace quantities.

Yet the controversy is similar to that surrounding the early stage of the evidence showing the link between lung cancer and smoking. Then commercial interests, including the Treasury, tried to place the onus on medical research workers to prove how cigarette smoke caused lung cancer.

The growing number of scientists, doctors, environmentalists and politicians campaigning against lead should, in theory, have an advantage. There is no controversy over the fact that lead is a neurotoxin, a poison which damages the brain.

Leading article, page 11

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Leading article, page 11

## Dentists protest at charge rise

By Annabel Ferriman

The increase by almost half in dental charges announced by the Government last December would reverse a 20-year trend towards more widespread dental care, representatives of Britain's 14,000 dentists told the Government yesterday.

A delegation from the British Dental Association met Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, to protest about the increases, which come into effect on April 1.

They told Mr Fowler that the health service was being "destroyed by stealth", because the charges were far higher than the rise in the cost of the service. They would mean fewer people going to the dentist.

Mr Ronald Allen, secretary of the association, said dental patients were being asked to shoulder 30 per cent of the cost of the dental service, whereas traditionally charges had paid for between 19 and 23 per cent. Charges paid for only about 3 per cent of the health service.

Mr Fowler had welcomed the report of the government-appointed Dental Strategy Review Body last September, which said that a policy of prevention required low charges, yet three months later had announced the increases.

Under the proposed increases, the maximum charge for routine treatment would rise from £9 to £13.

## Research council cuts: 2 A helping hand for knowledge

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Truly revolutionary discoveries in science occur only two or three times in a generation. One such advance is the method of genetic engineering being exploited for the production of synthetic insulin, the manufacture of interferon and the creation of a family of substances — known as monoclonal antibodies — with exciting biological properties for medical purposes.

Even so, the foundation for those discoveries lies in the genius of Francis Crick and James Watson, 25 years ago, in deciphering how the genetic code is passed through generations via the double helix of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) found in the nucleus of each living cell.

That original investigation at the Medical Research Council molecular biology laboratory, Cambridge, is a classic example of fundamental academic research. Its sole purpose was the advancement of knowledge. No one queried its practical use, and until 10 years ago, there were few reasons to believe that such knowledge would have commercial implications.

But the scope of academics to pursue such intellectual curiosity is diminishing as the Government's austerity measures bite into the resources for basic research. Sir James Gowans, secretary of the Medical Research Council (MRC) says areas of important research will be delayed because of cuts the Government is imposing on academic spending through

the University Grants Committee.

The research council is therefore having to dip into its pocket to provide some of the routine services to enable scientists to have proper conditions in which to work. The provision of "well-found laboratories" is not the responsibility of the research councils and so the MRC has sent a letter to universities stating explicitly the minimum conditions a university must provide if scientists receive research grants.

The MRC budget for the coming financial year is £107.4m, which is divided between direct awards to university teams of over £25m; the running of special medical research units located in teaching hospitals and universities costing £35m; operation of the council's own National Institute for Medical Research, at Mill Hill, £8m; the Clinical Research Centre, at Northwick Park Hospital in North London, £9m; and joint funding with the Cancer Research Campaign of the Institute of Cancer Research, in London.

The MRC is offering to help research workers in the field of important projects who lose their jobs in a department which is closing because of cuts. While not paying their salaries, they will be eligible for small personal grants to help them finish their work. In cases of exceptionally promising scientists, the MRC is willing to expand its senior fellowship scheme to provide support for up to 10 years for

young researchers unable to find tenured posts.

However, these acts of expediency have a penalty. The MRC is almost bereft of contingency money to underwrite speculative ideas. Sir James Gowans is most anxious about the lack of resources to provide a period of freedom for researchers with ideas, germinating from a hunch into a sensible theory worth testing experimentally, but before it is reasonable to make a formal research grant proposal.

Sir James believes this period of freedom in the research process is most vulnerable to the way the academic squeeze has been implemented. He also argues that it needs the most careful nurturing, because it provides the basis on which to build for the future.

Nevertheless, Sir James has wrung a considerable concession from the Government. He has retrieved the £15m which had been transferred from the MRC budget to the Department of Health, under an arrangement known as the customer-contractor principle, introduced in 1974 on the recommendation of Lord Rothschild.

The amounts transferred from the budgets of different councils to ministries varied. The purpose was for those government departments to use the money to commission research of their choosing, transferable through the councils or other agencies. The issue at stake over the customer-contractor principle is one of academic freedom. Tomorrow: Agricultural research

## Test-tube babies 'could bring Oedipus tragedy'

By George Clark

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, is to be asked tomorrow if the Government will set up an advisory committee to advise on the social, medical, legal and ethical issues raised by the latest experiments for producing test-tube babies.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, who has tabled the question for a written answer, said yesterday that he is concerned that the present possibilities for conducting experiments of embryo babies for the benefit of eradicating inherited genetic illnesses will lead on to the quest for a perfect embryo, "which has all sorts of Hitlerian overtones".

He refers in his question to the development of "in-vitro pregnancies" and asks for the appointment of an interdisciplinary, inter-disciplinary advisory committee, not less than half of which would be women.

The Royal College of Gynaecologists and the British Medical Association have

both referred the issue to their ethical committees, Mr Abse said, because they are beginning to see the possibility of people being able to freeze and keep a bank of embryos for sale to couples who are unable to have children by any other means.

He said that it is now possible for an ovum to be taken from a woman and then fertilised by the male sperm, the resultant embryo being placed in the womb to be born in the normal way. That he has no objection to.

"But with the blessings of this development come grave dangers. Now it becomes possible for an embryo bank, unlicensed and uncontrolled, to sell babies to whomsoever they wish."

"The tragedy of Oedipus — of a man marrying his mother — looms into view as the ability to freeze embryos develops and the anonymity of the donors of ova is maintained", Mr Abse said.

## Call for increase in forests

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

The forested area of Britain could be increased by more than half the present two million hectares, with considerable benefits to the economy, to agriculture and to recreation.

That is the conclusion of a report published yesterday by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which also suggests, more controversially, that large areas of "unproductive" common land could and should be used for forestry and agriculture.

The institution strongly supports a recommendation by the Centre for Agricultural Surveys that "agriculture and forestry be brought more closely together in colleges and universities to encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to land use".

Forestry and Land Use. (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London, SW1P 3AD).

## Haughey factor may thwart Fianna Fail

From Richard Ford, Portlaoine, co Laoighis

Poor Charles Haughey. He has kissed young girls, presented flowers to an old lady, held a baby and even climbed up a ladder to get votes.

But even his considerable campaigning skill has failed to raise morale within his divided Fianna Fail party or persuade a doubting electorate that the man they rejected seven months ago can be entrusted once again with running the Irish Republic.

The opinion polls have made devastating reading for a man who inherited a party used to names with the charisma of de Valera, Lemass and Lynch. His personal credibility rating has plummeted to humiliating levels, even below that of Mr Michael O'Leary, leader of Ireland's small Labour Party.

The Haughey factor has

been a dominant part of the election campaign so far, not just with the opposition but also among his own parliamentary party and party faithful in the constituencies.

It is not only his record in government, when as Prime Minister he is accused of failing to take the tough action on the economy that he knew was needed, but also the apparent manner in which his popular predecessor, Mr Jack Lynch, was ousted to make way for Mr Haughey which rankles.

Yet those same polls put his party neck and neck with the coalition and it is Fianna Fail's considerable machine that could bring salvation to it.

Fianna Fail members are heartened by evidence that a majority of the electorate agrees with Mr Haughey that unemployment and stability of government are the most

important issues and does not approve of the coalition's plans to put VAT on clothing and footwear and withdraw some food subsidies.

It is in those areas that the opposition will attempt to widen the attack during the next eight days, making considerable efforts to woo Labour's working-class vote.

Despite Dr Garret Fitzgerald's personal popularity, his Fine Gael party lags behind in the opinion polls and needs Labour to ensure that the coalition will continue in government. And it is Labour that is looking vulnerable: divided on the issue of whether to continue in the coalition, short of funds and poorly organised.

The party's vote has dropped from 17 per cent in 1969 to 9.9 per cent last year, and with such personalities as Brendan Corish and James

Tully retiring, they are in danger of losing seats in Wexford and Co Meath.

Fine Gael are fighting some tough margins in Dublin constituencies and the opposition expects to gain two seats, in Louth and Cavan-Monaghan, won last year by an H-block candidate. Privately Fine Gael election workers are worried that although they may hold their 65 seats, any further collapse of the Labour vote would end Dr Fitzgerald's chance of forming the next government.

Ironically, the result could mean that the most popular leader in the country would have to watch a government being formed by a man who, according to the opinion polls, is the most unpopular political leader fighting the election and possibly in the republic's history.

Prior idea denounced

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast

Proposals by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to offer a security role to the Ulster assembly he hopes to establish at Stormont were condemned by the Official Unionist Party yesterday as "highly dangerous".

Mr Prior apparently believes that a security role is important if local politicians are to feel a proper identity with a new devolved body.

Mr James Molyneux, the Unionist leader, said that to be credible an advisory security committee would have to have access to classified information, but some elected representatives to an assembly would have "very strong links and sympathies with the terrorists".

The Provisional IRA planted bombs across the province yesterday as part of a coordinated campaign against commercial targets.

At Strabane, co Tyrone, a family was held hostage while four men used their car to plant bombs in a golf club.

In co Londonderry the White Horse Inn was badly damaged by a car bomb and at Warrenpoint, co Down, the Crown Hotel was bombed.

## EEC jobs blackspot

From Tim Jones, Belfast

Scratch Strabane and the prejudices come bubbling to the surface. The co Tyrone town is perched on the westernmost edge of the United Kingdom, where the pound meets the Irish punt, and it has the unenviable distinction of recording the highest unemployment rate of any community within the EEC.

Almost one in two men (48.1 per cent) are without work and 20 per cent of women who offer themselves for employment are unable to find jobs. The total number of unemployed in the town of 12,000 is 3,444 and the figure is rising.

In the past year an important construction company collapsed, and it combined with other setbacks to signal the end of more than 1,000 jobs.

Public spending cuts wiped out building programmes and two quarries serving the construction industry shut. As Mr Colman Turley, manager of the Employment Office (Job Centre) put it: "The image flashed through my mind that even the hills had stopped working."

The border, emphasized by police carrying sub-machine guns, runs through one edge of the town but it has always been ignored by the people of



Murder victim: Mrs Nellie Cardwell, aged 78, who was found dead in Belfast yesterday. She was known as "Orange Lil" for her role in "loyalist" marches.

north Donegal, who look on Strabane as a natural shopping centre.

Unfortunately the Irish Government's departure from the sterling standard has affected the town. The pound is now worth only 1.27 Irish punts.

Mr Danny McLaughlin, who owns a men's wear shop, said all the traders offered discounts to shoppers from the republic. "Like everyone else here, we have learned to live on less."

Although the town is predominantly Roman Catholic, that did not prevent Provisional IRA bombers

from destroying shops and businesses in the middle 1970s as they sought out "economic targets". In 1980 30 local people were looking forward to starting work in a new hotel but it was blown up six days before the opening.

Mr McLaughlin is bitter about the past. He maintains that because Strabane is mainly Catholic it was neglected for decades.

"In the east, concerns like Harland and Wolff and De Lorean get millions of pounds from Westminster, but we receive virtually nothing."

# Union bullies and bigots will be made to pay heavy price

## TRADE UNION LAW

The Employment Bill tried to provide specific remedies for trade union abuses, effective protection where it had been shown to be necessary, and to redress imbalances of bargaining power to which Labour legislation had contributed significantly, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said.

Moving the second reading of the Bill he said under the last administration an unprecedented volume of employment legislation reached the statute book. Labour also re-enacted most of the earlier statute law going back to 1871. The impossibility of excluding the operation of the law from industrial relations had been shown.

Laws which gave trade unions rights took away common historic rights of the people. They had seen the folly of divorcing rights from obligations, and power from responsibility. Unlimited immunity for industrial action led not to peace and stability but to conflict and stalemate as they saw in the winter 1978-79.

That experience demonstrated the injustice that was bound to result if the rights of the individual were subordinated to those of the group. The closed shop legislation of 1974-76 led directly to arraignment before the European Court of Human Rights.

The Government had not sought to transform the whole framework of industrial relations law. It had not acted hastily as the Bill was the product of 12 months' consultations which showed that the proposals were widely supported in industry. Opinion polls had repeatedly shown that they had the approval of the majority of the electorate and trade union members.

For many of us (he said), the cause of liberty requires more commitment than to hold hands and sing the Red Flag once again. (Labour interruptions)

For those concerned with freedom, the closed shop and those union conspiracies were a matter of deep concern and it was something which was covered directly or indirectly by half the clauses in the Bill. That was why he had tried with the idea of calling it the Workers' Rights Bill, but it went beyond the rights of workers to the rights of the whole community.

Mr Frank Dobson (Camden, Holborn and St Pancras, South, Lab) said Mr Tebbit's speech sounded like one made by General Jaruzelski.

Mr Tebbit: I think the Labour Party has more connections with east Europe than mine. Since the Employment Act 1980, the judgment had been received from the European Court of Human Rights in the British Rail case. The court had found that the closed shop legislation which was supported by the Labour Party, and the SDP MPs who were then in the Labour Party, was in clear breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

He would like to know if Mr Eric Varley, the Opposition spokesman, supported that judgment; MPs might also like to hear from Mrs Shirley Williams of the SDP.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, Lab) would like to say why since the breach of the European Convention on human rights, why this Bill continues to leave the closed shop as a legal institution within the operation of the law from industrial relations had been shown.

Mr Tebbit: He makes a fair point. I regard the closed shop as a most unhappy arrangement. I am also a practical man and believe in reform step by step, as public opinion supports it.

Since we have the institution of the closed shop it seems to me that the best thing we can do at present is to provide protection and redress for those who are damaged by it.

The official view of both the Labour Party and trade union

hierarchy was to allow four part-time dinner ladies to give school children their lunches in Walsall. That was the extreme of their view on the closed shop. They, those bigots from big institutions, referred to such people as bounty hunters or free loaders.

What those women suffered was brushed aside, in the words of one trade union official, Mr. E. Fall of NALGO, who said: "It may appear to be undemocratic and un-British, but it is not illegal." What an attitude. The Bill would give such people compensation for the damage done to them by creatures of that kind.

The case of those dinner ladies and that of the British Rail employees, who went to the European Court seeking justice that would be fair, democratic and British, however that stuck in the gullets of some, had struck the conscience of the nation. But those who were not so concerned had been denied justice.

Clause 1 of the Bill on compensation for certain dismissals was a direct response to the suffering caused by the law government's closed shop legislation. It was not retrospective; it created no new rights or duties. It simply provided a power to be exercised at the Secretary of State's discretion, to compensate those who had suffered loss of employment between 1974 and 1980, and who would have been entitled to compensation if the Employment Act 1980 had been in force.

What was the crime that people who had lost their jobs been accused of? The answer was in the press gang that operated under the 1974 and 1978 Acts.

The essence of the closed shop was that it gave a trade union control over who worked for an employer and who did not.

At the worst (he continued), it meant that an employer is forced to abdicate the right to decide whom he employs and even how many he employs. The closed shop need not, but often does, reinforce restrictive practices and inefficient working methods. It damages competitiveness and, therefore, in the long run, destroys jobs.

The Government could not guarantee complete protection against some of the bullying and bigotry that had occurred, but could ensure that those who indulged in it had to pay a heavy price and that those who suffered were properly compensated.

This Bill (he said) will provide the most comprehensive and effective statutory protection for individual employees that we have ever had in this country.

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achievement of mass unemployment. The Bill was highly irrelevant in tackling the real problems facing workers.

It was tragic that Parliament should be asked to devote so much time to a Bill which if enacted could only make the problems devastatingly worse.

They could make the Government seriously if it was concerned about workers' rights, or if it had a strategy to reduce the dole queues.

It was ridiculous to claim that the main purpose of the Bill was to improve and protect individual employees. The Government's motives did not spring from any desire to enhance job protection, but to weaken union membership agreements and weaken the unions.

There were sincere people who had deeply-held, and genuine, objections to belonging to a trade union, and they had rights too. But as the Department of Employment had found out about the case of a specially commissioned piece of research, the overwhelming majority of cases where union agreements existed, provision had been made for individuals to keep their jobs.

Everyone resented the freedom to be employed full time but paid not a penny into the organisation.

The most dangerous concept in the Bill was that of a trade union with trade union disputes and repeal of section 14 of the Trade Unions and Labour Relations Act making it possible to sue trade unionists for both injuries and damages, putting trade union funds at risk, and threatening the financial survival of the SDP.

What was the crime that people who had lost their jobs been accused of? The answer was in the press gang that operated under the 1974 and 1978 Acts.

The essence of the closed shop was that it gave a trade union control over who worked for an employer and who did not.

At the worst (he continued), it meant that an employer is forced to abdicate the right to decide whom he employs and even how many he employs. The closed shop need not, but often does, reinforce restrictive practices and inefficient working methods. It damages competitiveness and, therefore, in the long run, destroys jobs.

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Tebbit Remedies for abuses.

It would not find a single job for the three million unemployed. Even this Government would not be able to introduce the Bill. If it became law it would lead to one of the most damaging and divisive periods of industrial relations in this country.

The Opposition would fight the Bill at every stage and do the best it could to prevent it reaching the statute book. If it did reach the statute book the Opposition would remove it at the first opportunity.

SDP wants internal union ballots

Mr William Rodgers (Teesside, Stockton, SDP) said if the Conservative Party could have a party poll, the SDP could consider the merits of the issue and the power and abuse of the trade union vote would not be this sort of argument across the Chamber and MPs would probably agree on legislation which would give a stable period ahead.

This was an intolerable Government objectionable in principle and disastrous in its record. He wanted the Government to do much more to promote industrial democracy, profit sharing, worker participation and share ownership. If trade union leaders would not listen to themselves, the Government should seriously consider legislation for mandatory secret ballots for election of trade union officials.

These ballots should start in three or four years and take place every five years. They would be paid for by Government funds and he would not accept any contribution from an independent body.

They must take care not to give ammunition to the left-wing to claim that the trade union vote was against the measure. Mr Tebbit had not gone far enough to reduce civil action damages on smaller unions. For instance the union of colliery overseers and shopfitters, with relatively fewer members and much less money than the transport workers' union, would be a greater proportion of its annual income.

Individuals, trade unionists and non-trade unionists had sadly come to regard unions as a necessary evil, rather than as a source of pride and achievement.

He and other SDP MPs had placed upon the order paper, by way of a motion, a proposal to amend the way in which the Bill might be extended during its committee stage.

It was wrong that there was no provision in the Bill to make for fuller participation of workers in the decisions of their workplace. There was also need to provide for a more democratic way of electing trade union officials.

There was an overwhelming case to change the system so that individual trade unionists would choose their representatives by secret ballot, rather than by contract out.

Only two years ago those who now formed this new party voted against the Employment Act 1980, which although a bad enough measure, was milk and water compared to what they were now debating.

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Varley: Back to 1901

Unlike the Government, the SDP wanted an open and constructive dialogue with the TUC. They would be happy to receive representations, if need be a deputation, from the General Council, and discuss the detailed provisions of this Bill. If the Bill was to be amended at later stages it was reasonable that the House should have the best advice which might be available, whatever conclusions it might reach.

Representative trade unions had most important part to play in the national life, but the trade unions had made themselves immensely unpopular. They could not be above criticism and above the law. There was nothing anti-trade union in saying that.

Bill fits the mood of British people

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid Sussex, C), president of the Conservative trade unionist said, the bill fitted in with the mood of the British people and most trade unionists.

But I want to make this plea to him (he said). Please do not let this Bill be the last word on employment law for some years. As the right of the right to work is a healthy discussion about how we can best handle the difficulties we are facing.

Mr Pym: I am Pym (Conservative, Fife, Lab). All these facts are with the coordination between himself and the Prime Minister in the matter of the bill. He was not a member of the bill, but he was a member of the bill.

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## School religion should be kept, MPs say

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Retention of the statutory obligation to provide religious education to all pupils, and the continued existence of voluntary denominational schools are recommended by the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts in a report due to be published next week.

The all-party select committee, chaired by Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, considered carefully whether to recommend the repeal of the relevant section of the Education Act, 1944, making religious education the only compulsory part of the school curriculum, particularly in view of the widespread flouting of the law and the increasingly secular and multi-cultural nature of today's society.

The report points out that at present only over half of all secondary schools provide religious education for all their fourth-year pupils, and nearly a fifth make no provision at all.

However, the evidence to the committee suggested that there was a general view that religious education had the support of parents, and that support was of a level well beyond that suggested by figures for church going, and even beyond the level of religious belief. Several witnesses had detected a revival of interest in religion among the young.

In addition, Schools Inspectorate had made clear that the compulsory status of religious education had not impeded change and development in the subject.

The Archbishop of Canterbury had suggested that if there were to be any modifications in the law concerning the compulsory curriculum offerings, it should be in the

## Unions ask public to back 12% NHS claim

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Union leaders of an estimated one million National Health Service employees yesterday began a campaign to mobilize public opinion against the Cabinet's 4 per cent limit on pay increases.

The TUC Health Services Committee has agreed a "core" claim common to all 17 groups of manual and white collar staff for a 12 per cent increase and a cut in working hours from April 1. Government resistance is expected to be stiff.

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), said: "The public need us when they are sick. Now we are asking them to support us in getting rid of sick wages."

Pay offers are due over the next few weeks, to a wide range of NHS staff, from £59-a-week hospital porters to highly paid area administrators, and the health unions are determined to exact a higher price than the settlements below inflation of the last two years.

More than 500,000 nurses were due to receive a pay offer today, but negotiations have been put back for a fortnight because of the rail dispute.

This is the first time all unions in the health service have agreed on a joint claim, and it was announced as "beginning the fight to turn the tide of history", by Mr Albert Spanwick, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) and chairman of the TUC Health Committee.

Mr Spanwick said yesterday: "By asking the public to support our claim we are also asking them to support their health service. If we do not get justice now, then it is the public that will suffer in the long run."



## One Welsh artist salutes another

Mr Jonah Jones, aged 60, the Welsh artist, sculptor and writer, finishing the panel commemorating Dylan Thomas that is to be laid in the floor of Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey on March 1, St David's Day, more than 28 years after Thomas's death. The lines

come from the end of "Fern Hill". Thomas's lyrical evocation of his childhood, a fitting epitaph to the talent that finally drowned in alcoholic poisoning at age of 39 (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Mr Jones, the Gwynedd Art Fellow at the University of Wales,

says the 3 cwt slab is of Penrhyn green slate, an extremely hard stone whose colour suits the imagery of the lines and the poet. It is the same stone from which the memorial to Lloyd George in the Abbey, also the work of Mr Jones,

## Support claim for succession Bill

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham, West, predicted yesterday that a majority of MPs would support his attempt to end discrimination against women in the law of succession to the throne.

Mr English's Succession to the Crown Bill, published yesterday, would change the law so that elder sisters would not be outranked in the line of succession by their younger brothers.

The Bill, which has backing from Labour, Conservative, Liberal and Social Democrat MPs, would mean that the first child of the Prince and Princess of Wales would be an heir apparent, irrespective of its sex.

Mr English admitted that if the child, due in June, was a boy the whole issue was deferred for a generation, but if the child is a girl it became more urgent. Under present law she would become heir, remain heir if she had a younger sister but cease to be heir if she had a younger brother.

Mr English has written to Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the prime ministers of the 16 other Commonwealth countries of which the Queen is monarch, asking whether they disagree with his proposal, or would wish to legislate in similar terms, or would consent to his Bill extending to their countries.

Without Government support the chances of the Bill coming before the Commons for debate in this session are not bright. It is down for second reading on February 26, but is preceded on the Commons order paper that day by a Bill to abolish the rating system, which is expected to take up the entire day's sitting. Thereafter Mr English's Bill would fall in precedence.

## Luggage tickets 'reissued'

British Rail lost thousands of pounds as employees at Victoria station's left luggage office systematically reissued used tickets, Inner London Crown Court was told yesterday.

Frederick Shorey, aged 39, of Eswyn Road, Tooting, and Dharma Vythelingham, aged 40, of Steerforth Street, Earlsfield, south London, both denied conspiring to steal from the British Railways Board between January, 1978, and November, 1980.

A third man, Sydney Canning, aged 55, of Crompton Road, Penze, changed his plea to guilty and was remanded until the end of the trial.

Mr Peter Cooper, for the prosecution, told the jury that the three men, with others, pooled their profits in a plastic cup and shared them out each evening.

In 1980 large numbers of police officers deposited suitcases, taking note of the ticket serial numbers before collecting their luggage and handing them in. Members of the public who had left baggage at the office were stopped and their tickets checked.

The police estimated that between 40 and 50 per cent of all tickets were dishonestly reissued.

Mr Cooper said dishonest earnings could be as high as £6 an hour.

The trial continues today.

## Race hatred claim

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Russell Proffitt, the black councillor in Lewisham, has sent a copy of the latest issue of *National Front News* to Scotland Yard inviting them to prosecute for incitement to racial hatred.

In a letter to the police Mr Proffitt says that he found through his letterbox, "deeply offensive". On page one there was a handwritten message: "Don't blame the white's for New Cross fire, thick lips".

The journal contained articles about positive discrimination (described as

## Woman tells of fight for 'sanity'

A woman who fought for 22 years to clear her name of the stigma of being certified insane is to launch a campaign to help others wrongfully committed to mental institutions.

Mrs Jean Dhargalkar, aged 68, claims that her cries for help while she was in a mental hospital were obstructed while the authorities planned to certify her.

She accused members of the medical and legal professions of closing ranks to cover up over her case. She said lawyers accepted legal aid for court actions that were bound to fail because they were too late.

Mrs Dhargalkar's story began in 1959, when she felt ill while studying at Hull University. A doctor told her she had an infection.

Two days later she called an ambulance and was taken to hospital, but had to wait nine hours before a gangrenous appendix which had ruptured was diagnosed. She underwent surgery, but was given only a 5 per cent chance of survival.

The after-effects of the operation and a "cocktail" of drugs made her delirious, and within three days she was taken to a mental hospital. She said no one would listen to her story, she was not given proper medical attention, and after five days she was certified insane.

She was detained against her will for a month until her husband flew home from India to obtain her release.

Mrs Dhargalkar said: "When my husband secured my release I was sane, but the certificate still existed."

The only way to have the certificate quashed was through a successful High Court action. But it took 22 years and six firms of solicitors for her to have the certificate declared wrongful.

## PRISON FOR INDECENCY WITH BOYS

A riding school manager was sentenced yesterday to four months in prison on charges of gross indecency against teenage boys at the home of Tam Paton, the former manager of the Bay City Rollers.

John Wilson, aged 41, of Mavisbank Stables, Loanhead, Lothian, was led weeping from court after being sentenced by Lord Kincaid at the High Court in Edinburgh. He admitted four charges of gross indecency. Eight were not proceeded with when Wilson denied them.

In the dock with Wilson was Paton, of Little Kellars, Gogar, Edinburgh, who faced a number of charges involving teenage boys. The case against him did not go ahead and he will appear at the High Court later.

Advocate Depute Andrew Hardie said the cases against Wilson involved boys aged 13, 15, 16 and 17.

Mr Donald Robertson, QC, for Wilson, said his client had not invited boys to the stables, they had gone freely.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Dilemma in the middle of nowhere

The forgotten people of Walpole, Somerset, yesterday started a campaign to seek a rates reduction from Sedgemoor District Council because their hamlet of five houses no longer officially exists.

They say they have lost their identity because they have a Dunball postal address and a Puriton telephone number, are in the parish of Pawlett, are not listed in the official census, and are no longer on the map.

They had to rely on voluntary help during recent flooding because council workmen could not find the hamlet, and firemen spent half an hour searching for it in an emergency.

Mr Donald Fuller, the postmaster at Puriton, summed it up: "Walpole? Never heard of it. It must have been absorbed."

### £165,679 damages

An electrician who lost his sight and senses of smell and taste in a road accident was awarded £165,679 damages and interest against the Post Office in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Comyn said it was impossible to over-emphasize the bravery of Mr Martin Mustart, aged 30, of Hammer Lane, Haslemere, Surrey, who had set up in business as an electrical supplier after the accident.

### Walkers renew rescue box

The Keswick-Barrow walk committee has sent a cheque for £250 to replace the mountain rescue box and stretcher on Striding Edge, Helvellyn, in the Lake District.

The equipment box and stretcher, put there eight years ago for public use, were recently brought down by the Patterdale mountain rescue team, who have responsibility for them. They were so heavily vandalized that they had become unsafe for use.

### Four die in crash

Four people died when a Ford Cortina and a Cortina Estate were in collision near Longbridge, Edinburgh, on Sunday night. The dead were: Mr Henry McCulloch aged 23, a student, and Miss Nora Cairns, aged 21, a civil servant, both of Fauldhouse, West Lothian, and a coal merchant Mr Thomas Bryce, aged 40, and his wife, aged 48, of Bo'ness, near Edinburgh.

### Theft from lifeboat

Thieves have stolen the compass, valued at £100, from the replacement Penlee lifeboat, the Guy and Clare Hunter, only a few hours after it arrived on station at Newlyn, Cornwall.

No one could resist the lure of the new Telemessage, with its hint of promotion. The rest of the day's mail will have to wait while its secrets are explored. And, so long as you send it in by 8pm (6pm on Sunday), we'll deliver the very next working day or refund your money. Just dial 100 (190 in London) and ask for the Telemessage service. Or send us a telex.

In either case, we won't charge you for the call. For any message that's simply got to get

through, it's good value at £3 plus VAT for 50 words, particularly as the name and address come free.

For a free leaflet, with all the details including telex numbers, British just give us a call.

TELECOM

NEWS IN SUMMARY

# White MP ordered to stay in jail

Salisbury.—Mr Wally Stuttaford, the white MP detained in Zimbabwe for two months under an emergency powers order which has just expired, has been ordered to stay in jail indefinitely (Stephen Taylor writes). It was served on Mr Stuttaford, 64, in his cell at Chikumbi maximum security prison.

The expiry of the original order required the authorities to release him in the absence of evidence to substantiate allegations that he was plotting with dissident supporters of Mr Joshua Nkomo to overthrow the government—or keep him under detention.

Mr Stuttaford, a member of Mr Ian Smith's Republican Front, may now appeal to a judicial tribunal, but its recommendations can be overruled by the Minister of Home Affairs. When he was arrested in Bulawayo on December 10, Government leaders, including Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said that he would be brought to trial shortly.

## Palestinian guns hit private jet

Beirut.—A Swiss executive jet made an emergency landing here with fuel spilling from its wing after being hit by Palestinian anti-aircraft fire aimed at Israeli military aircraft, the state radio reported.

The two-engine 36A Lear jet, operated by Aero Leasing of Geneva, flew into the range of the anti-aircraft cannons at 1,200ft while making an approach to Beirut airport. Nobody was hurt.

## New curbs on Czechoslovaks

Prague.—Czechoslovakia has imposed new travel restrictions that are likely to reduce further visits to the West, according to official press reports here.

The daily *Smena* said that longstanding regulations allowing Czechoslovaks one trip to the West every three to five years have been dropped by the Prague authorities.

## Strike called in South Africa

Some of South Africa's biggest black trade unions have called for a 24-hour national strike on Thursday to mourn the death in prison of Dr Neil Aggett, the white trade unionist who was found hanged in his cell at security police headquarters in Johannesburg early last Friday (Michael Hearn writes).

The call was made by the multiracial (though predominantly black) African Food and Canning Workers' Union, of which Dr Aggett was a Transvaal secretary and supported by the Federation of South African Trade Unions, which has a mainly black membership of more than 90,000.

## Doctors in big medical fraud

Canberra.—Fraud and abuse of Australia's medical insurance system by doctors is widespread, according to an internal Health Ministry report leaked to journalists.

The Australian Medical Association had estimated that 900 of the country's 27,000 doctors were involved but the document—leaked by the opposition Labor party—said that 2,500 doctors were suspected. The Government has already announced that it would take action against doctors claiming for treatment not given.

## Silence over US radiation claim

New York.—The Pentagon refused to comment on reports that radiation records on thousands of soldiers who observed atomic tests in the 1950s were falsified.

Mr Van R. Brandon, a former member of the army medical corps, claimed that the real readings were kept in secret "hot book" that was held under lock and key by high ranking officers. He said he believed that the radiation readings recorded in the book were above the accepted safe levels—some being 50 per cent higher.

## Saudi Arabia to make US arms

Riyadh.—Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defense Secretary, said after meeting Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia that it was likely that the two countries would jointly produce American weapons.

He said the Saudis had submitted a number of requests for sophisticated weapon systems.

## Preger trial date

Calcutta.—Magistrates have set February 20 as the trial date for Dr Jack Preger, the British medical worker among the Calcutta poor, who is opposing a deportation order. Dr Preger has been given notice under the Foreigners Act.

## Child seeks refuge

Port Louis, Mauritius.—An 11-year-old child, whose father is Mauritanian and whose mother is a Soviet citizen, took refuge in the Soviet Embassy here demanding to go to the Soviet Union to see his mother. The father was later given custody

# Classes reopen at Polish universities

Warsaw, Feb 8.—Polish universities resumed full-time classes today after months of interruption caused by strikes and martial law.

Conditions seemed calm at Warsaw University and security patrols, at their usual strength in the streets, were not seen on the campus.

Students, some wearing traditional white four-cornered caps, entered the main gate without restriction but had to show identity cards to university employees when going into their faculty buildings or sign a roster if they were from another faculty.

Poland's military rulers closed down universities when martial law was imposed on December 13. But regular classes had been disrupted for several weeks, previously by strikes which began in sympathy with students at an engineering college in Radom, south of Warsaw, who were demanding the removal of an unpopular rector.

As tension subsided, the military authorities began reopening colleges last month, starting with engineering, agricultural and medical schools. But they delayed resumption of classes in universities specializing in the humanities, long regarded as potential centres of student unrest.

All traces of Solidarity and the closely-allied independent students' association NZS had disappeared from the university grounds in Warsaw. A long notice board near the main gate, once covered with uncensored posters and dissenting tracts, was all but bare.

The only notices displayed were an appeal to flood victims, regulations on the conduct of student hostels under martial law, and several quotations from speeches by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the military regime.

Most students said they were happy to be back but acknow-

ledged they would have to work hard to make up for lost time. Most declined to answer openly political questions but several indicated they believed the cause of academic freedom was not totally hopeless.

The NZS, which claimed 80,000 members among a total university population of 450,000, was dissolved last month by the military who accused the organization of continuing its activities in defiance of suspension under martial law.

Meanwhile, the Polish authorities, who suspended Solidarity and other trade unions when martial law was imposed eight weeks ago, have called for public discussion of a possible resumption of union activity.

The discussion will focus on a report which the Government has instructed a committee under Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Prime Minister, to produce later this month. The call for the report and discussion was announced in a Government statement published today by Polish newspapers.

The Rakowski document will deal with "premises for the rebirth of the trade union movement in Poland"—Kemer.

London: Polish authorities are calling up thousands of unemployed men aged from 18 to 45 for compulsory work, Warsaw radio, monitored by the BBC, reported today.

In Katowice province, about 5,000 have been told to report to the employment office. In January about 3,600 men were directed to work mainly in municipal economic enterprises doing loading and ancillary tasks.

In Lodz province, about 11,000 men are being affected by the Government decree, Warsaw radio said. All were given municipal or factory jobs.

# Nato stays its hand on Warsaw sanctions

By David Cross

With the notable exception of Britain, Nato member governments are taking their time in announcing any measures they might take to mark their disapproval of military rule in Poland.

But, according to reports from a number of West European capitals, other members of the Nato alliance have simply passed up "a moment of reflection", as the Italian Government puts it. In due course, they indicate, they too will follow the lead set by President Reagan at the end of last year.

The West German Government, which has been among the most reluctant to introduce sanctions against either the Soviet Union or Poland has promised that further measures (Bonn prefers to talk about "measures" rather than "sanctions") will not be delayed indefinitely.

So far, it has stopped new economic aid to Poland and has refused to negotiate a restructuring of Poland's debts during the current financial year. Humanitarian aid continues, however.

It is not entirely clear what any new measures are likely to include, against either Warsaw or Moscow. The only certainty is that they will stop far short of a trade embargo. Nevertheless, Bonn acknowledged that it will have to take further action if there is no perceptible easing of martial law.

Among the various political measures being considered by the French Government are restrictions on the movement of Polish diplomats and journalists, similar to those announced last Friday by Britain.

The French Government has also taken the initiative in raising the Polish question at the Madrid security conference this week; in addition there has been a distinct slowing

down of cultural and scientific exchanges in recent weeks.

In the case of the Soviet Union, the French Government has, however, made it clear that it is totally opposed to economic sanctions on the ground that they would wrongly imply the existence of a state of war. The signing of the controversial natural gas deal with Moscow, which has so irked Washington, is clear evidence of French policy on this front.

On the other hand, France has joined its Nato partners in promising not to undermine the effectiveness of the American ban on exports of high technology to the Soviet Union. Similar strategic exports to Poland have been stopped.

Like all the Nato governments with the exception of Greece, the Italians are refusing to extend new credits to Poland and are trying to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches the Polish people by channeling it through such international organizations as Caritas and the Red Cross. Apart from these "minor moves", it is not entirely clear what further measures are under consideration.

The Belgian Government, which has so far adopted only the measures agreed by member governments of the EEC (suspension of credits to Poland, etc), is contemplating some diplomatic steps if restrictions on its own representatives in Poland are not eased in the near future.

The United States will undoubtedly wait until after the Nato partners have revealed their hands before it makes any public pronouncement. Washington appears to have accepted the inevitability of something far less swinging.

Provided that all the main allies produce some sanctions within the coming days, it seems likely that Washington will pronounce itself reasonably satisfied.

## CAIRO-BONN ACCORD ON WEST BANK

Bonn, Feb 8.—President Horst Mubarak of Egypt and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, reasserted the Palestinian right to self-rule at a joint press conference here today.

Herr Schmidt referred to "the right to peace and security of all countries of the region, including Israel, and, simultaneously, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination."

Mr Mubarak followed the line he had taken in Washington and London before coming to Bonn, and said Egypt and West Germany were determined to continue to work for a global solution of the Middle East problem.

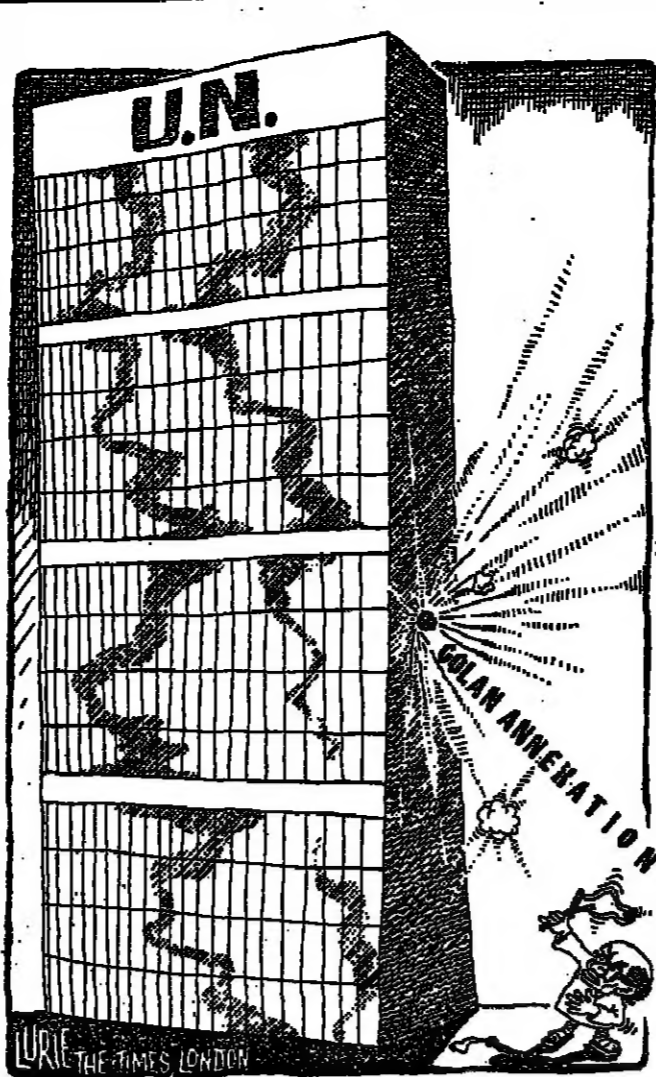
"The creation of a self-governing authority in the West Bank of the Jordan river and in Gaza would be a first, useful step within the Camp David framework," he added, followed by "the application of the right to self-government of the Palestinian people."

The Palestinians, President Mubarak continued, "are the key to a Middle East settlement," and European countries should play "a mediating role to help initiate a dialogue



## Haig meets his match

Mr Alexander Haig, United States Secretary of State, taking time off from politics yesterday for a private tennis match with the champion player Manuel Santana in Madrid.



Menachem and Goliath

# Call to arms in Congress

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 8

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defense Secretary, has backed up his department's proposed record peacetime defence spending of \$215,500m (£116,000m) in the 1983 budget with a sharp attack on the Soviet Union.

In his annual report to Congress, published today, he has anticipated opposition to the \$33,100m, (18 per cent) increase proposed for defence spending with a warning that "there is nothing hypothetical about Soviet power."

It is, he says, "the greatest single threat to the United States and the free world."

He accuses the Russians of breaking an international convention on biological warfare and says that if they have been cheating it creates "a most serious problem for any new arms agreement with the Soviet Union."

President Reagan believes it important to build up United States military forces to negotiate arms reductions from a position of strength. But both Republicans and Democrats are looking for cuts in the 1983 defence spending proposals.

Mr Weinberger says the increase, equal to more than a third of the projected 1983 total budget deficit of \$91,500m, is needed to reverse "a decade of neglect."

But Democrats feel that weapons are being financed on the backs of the poor as social programmes are cut and Republicans are dismayed at the size of the deficit.

"When hawks like me are

talking about cutting military spending," Senator William Armstrong, a conservative Republican for Colorado, said at the weekend, "you know something is in the wind."

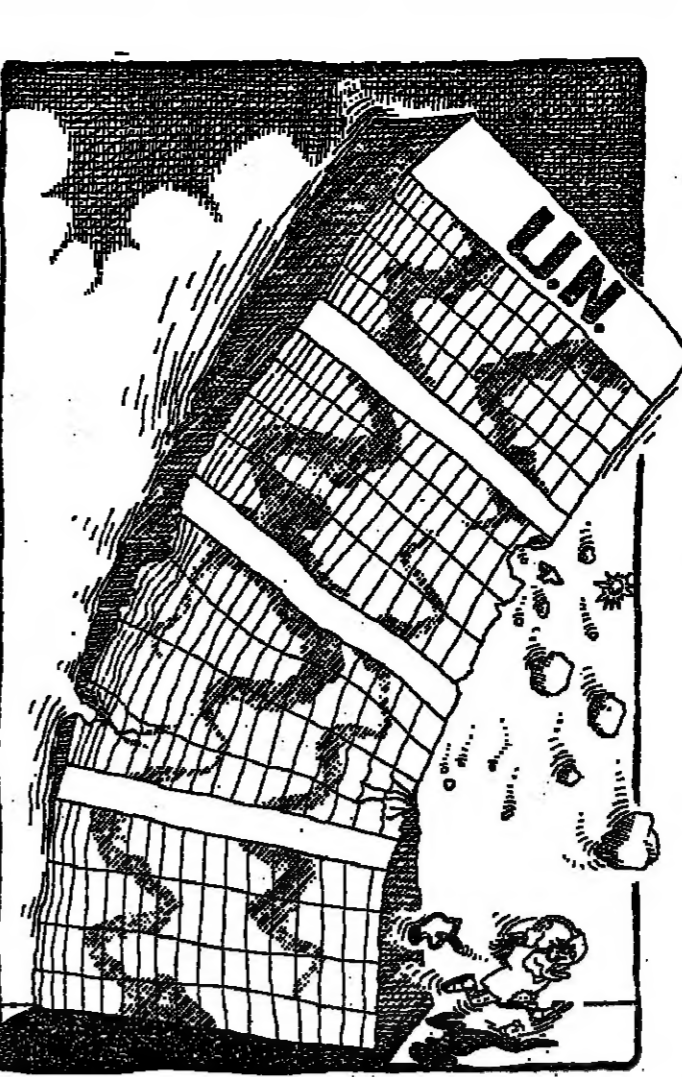
Of total federal spending of \$758,000m in 1982, 29 per cent will go on defence compared with 25 per cent in 1980, the last year of the Carter administration.

The Department of Defence is expecting opposition to its proposals. Mr Frank Carlucci, the deputy secretary on releasing the detailed figures over the weekend, said that the spending was fully justified and should not be weighed against social programmes but set against the threat from the Soviet Union.

"We think we have put together a minimal budget to meet the threat and we look forward to defending it on the Hill," he said.

The defence budget forms an integral part of the President's strategic nuclear programme of strengthening long range land, sea and air weapons. Over the next four years he plans to increase overall defence spending at a real growth rate, adjusted for inflation, of 7.4 per cent. As a proportion of gross national product defence spending is projected to rise from 5 to 7 per cent.

But in 1983 the real increase in spending will be considerably higher than the projected average rising 10.5 per cent on the previous year. It is an obvious point of attack for the Democrats, but it will be counter-



Menachem and Goliath

# Mauroy in mood of moderation

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 8

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, today reasserted the Socialist Government's commitment to an open economy and free trade. "Our economic policy does not ignore the realities of international competition. It will not lead us to a turning in on the hexagon," he told a symposium of 300 foreign businessmen organized by the *International Herald Tribune* in a Paris hotel today and tomorrow. Eight members of the government were also due to address the symposium.

The Prime Minister's speech was a model of moderation and balance, calculated to appease foreign businessmen, if not to stimulate their enthusiasm. The opening of the French economy to the outside world is a necessary and it would add an opportunity," he insisted.

The government wished to correct the image of a country "difficult and inhospitable" towards foreign investment. "It must have an open, positive, and pragmatic policy."

Foreign investments would be judged on the basis of three criteria: their impact on employment (government aid

for regional development would be doubled); their contribution to technological development; and their impact on French exports.

"We are not monetarists," the Prime Minister said, "but we are fully aware that without a stable currency, contained inflation, abundant savings, and financial circles in good working order, nothing will be possible."

Monetary policy would remain strict. Steps would be taken to encourage investment in both bonds and shares. The French financial market was too narrow in relation to foreign ones. It would be broadened and modernized. The budget deficit would be held to 3 per cent of domestic product. We should be concerned not to increase the tax burden of firms," he declared.

Man for the job? page 10

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# Begin puts pressure on US over Lebanon

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, Feb 8

The Israeli Government sent a special envoy to Washington to brief the Reagan Administration about its growing concern over the alleged Palestinian arms build-up in southern Lebanon and guerrilla breaches of the ceasefire.

The dispatch of the envoy last week was revealed today by the state-controlled Israeli radio, which reported that he had held meetings with Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and other senior officials.

The radio added that contacts between the governments on Lebanon were continuing, with the United States counselling restraint against any Israeli military action along the lines of the 1978 Litani operation.

There has been mounting speculation in Israeli military and political circles that a widespread land and air raid deep into Lebanon was being planned by Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister, after the invasion by Palestinian guerrillas operating from Jordan last month.

Mr Sharon told Mr Brian Urquhart, the United Nations Under Secretary-General, in

# Egypt asks for return of Sphinx's beard

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Fresh controversy over the ownership of archaeological treasures will arise later this month when Egypt formally requests the British Government and the trustees of the British Museum to return a part of the Sphinx's beard, which intends to restore the monument.

The decision to demand the return was disclosed by Mr Abdul Hamid Radwan, the Minister of Culture, in an interview with *The Times*. He said that it would be presented to the British authorities when he visits London on February 15 to mark the centenary of the Egypt Exploration Society.

Speaking at his office in the Cairo suburb of Zamalek, Mr Radwan said: "One of the seven committees we have appointed to investigate ways of saving the Sphinx has reported that one important step will be to restore the beard, which for thousands of years acted as a support for the statue until it was broken off."

Mr Radwan added: "The Sphinx is not exactly an Egyptian monument, it also belongs to the world. We hope that the people of Britain would be happy to participate in its restoration by returning that part of the beard now in London. The gesture would enable us to combine with the rest of the beard now in the Cairo museum and help the Sphinx back to its original state."

The minister, a former Deputy Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, flatly denied local speculation that he would also be asking for the return of other valuable Egyptian relics now in the British Museum. "We are only going to ask for the part of the Sphinx," he told me. "It would be quite foolish of us to expect you to hand back all the other Egyptian treasures which are now in London."

Neither Mr Radwan nor senior officials at his ministry were clear exactly when or how the 3ft high piece of the Sphinx's beard had found its way to Britain. Ministry research documents claim the fragments of the beard had first been discovered between the giant paws of the 65ft high statue in the early nineteenth century. They covered more than 100 years later.

Under the scheme being prepared by the Egyptian Government, a special plaque would be incorporated in the British site paying tribute to British cooperation, but it is understood that no compensation is being offered to the British Museum.

Explaining the Egyptian demand, Mr Radwan said: "We hope that the media will react in the same way as we would if your Government were to ask us to return a vital part of your civilisation needed for restoration work. If there is agreement, it will be of great benefit to the Egyptian relations."

The seven Egyptian committees investigating ways of saving the Sphinx, which is nearly 5,000 years old, have already come up with a number of ideas suggested to combat damage caused by a combination of sewage, air pollution, salt, sand, wind and sun.

At the end of last year, villages near the monument at Giza were bulldozed in an effort to reduce the blockage of underground passages by effluent from fanny sewage. Mr Radwan said that during his four-day visit to Britain he would also be seeking designs for electric powered vehicles to transport tourists to the plateau where the monument sits.

In addition to the missing beard, the 7ft-long nose of the monument is also missing. Local legend has it that the Sphinx was used for target practice during the Mameluke period.

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# SHIPS COLLIDE

Miami.—Two merchant ships have collided in the Gulf of Mexico 150 miles west of Key West and the United States Coast Guard said 25 crew members of one ship were injured as it began to sink. No casualties have been reported.

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Man for the job? page 10

Egypt asks  
for return  
of Sphinx's  
beard  
From Christopher Walker  
Cairo

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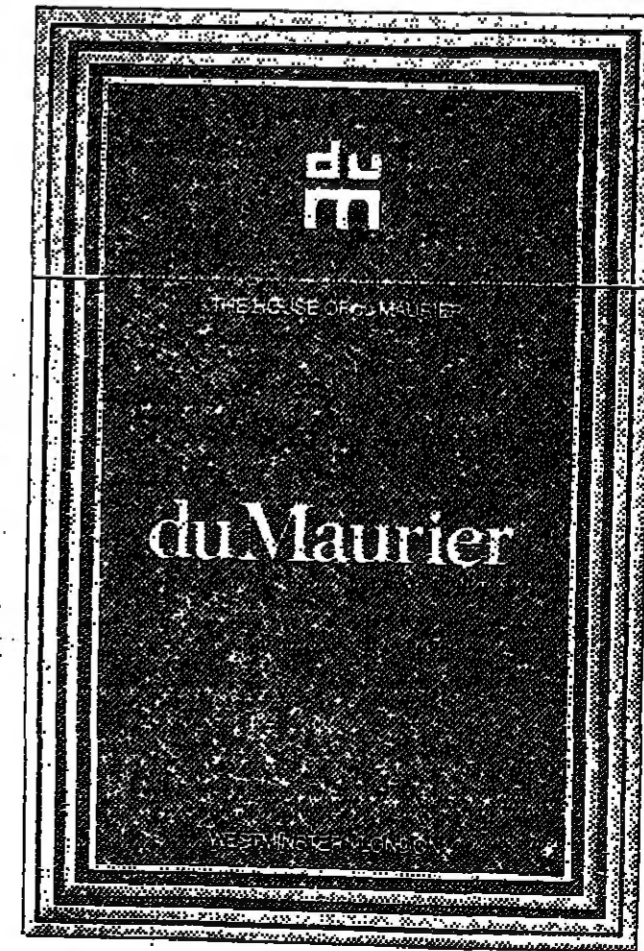
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## POISON IN THE AIR

The report in *The Times* yesterday that the Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health had issued a confidential letter warning that lead in petrol is probably permanently damaging the health and mental activity of many children will, and should, raise the temperature of an already heated issue.

In itself Sir Henry Yellowlees' letter does not finally settle the scientific question of proof. The Lawlor Report published in 1980 challenged the link between lead and brain damage. The main research studies launched subsequently in Britain remain incomplete and a minority of respected researchers are unconvinced. Certainly these studies must be pursued with vigour and it would be indefensible if any of them suffered from the current cuts in environmental research. Equally the relevant papers and evidence, from within Departments as well as outside, should be published as soon as possible. The particular advice of officials to ministers should be protected but the evidence and options shaping decisions should not be hidden. This matter concerns not spies but children.

In fact the weight of evidence, as Sir Henry Yellowlees states, already points firmly in the direction of risk, especially from car exhausts which emit around 10,000 tons of lead a year into British air. In any case we should not have to wait until the very last mathematical correlation has been estab-

lished to announce proudly that there is final proof that children have continued to be blighted while the research was concluded. The balance of risk is clearly such as to justify the maximum control on the emission of lead poisons.

The Government has not been deaf to the fears voiced by critics in the DHSS and among the public at large. Last year it decided that from 1985 the maximum level of liquid lead allowed to be added to petrol was to be reduced from 0.40 grams per litre to 0.15 grams. But that decision (the fifth such reduction in ten years) smelt of departmental compromise. Those, such as the Treasury and the Department of Energy, who worried about the cost of eliminating toxic lead argued for a minimal reduction. Those who were convinced of the danger to children's health (and the cost of treating lead poisoning) could only in logic argue for the rapid and major reduction or elimination of lead in petrol. The outcome was a familiar compromise, unsatisfactory in view of the dangers involved. If the medical case against lead holds, then 1985 is too long ahead and 0.15 grams per litre—above the level at which lead damage to the body has been established—is too high. Moreover, there is no commitment to further reduction beyond 1985, whereas the United States, Japan, Australia, Germany and Sweden are all committed to a transition to completely lead-free petrol. Our motor car exporters will

then no longer have access to those markets unless they adjust in line.

Two arguments, one minor, one major, will have to be met by those who are now pressing for more urgent action. First is the existence of EEC standards which stand in the way of eliminating lead altogether. These need not however deter a government determined to alter both the prevailing EEC standards and our own.

The question of cost is less readily dismissed. Although the precise numbers are not easy to establish, it is widely accepted that eliminating lead from petrol alone would cost the oil companies some two hundred million pounds in new plant and add three or four pence to a gallon of petrol—while also removing the danger from paint, old pipes and factory emissions would add considerably to that. It is natural for campaigners to consider no cost too high to satisfy their particular cause. In fact society often shies at the cost of eliminating an evil, as it does at the price of stopping the annual slaughter on our roads. But this is not a case of reckless individuals choosing to maim themselves along with others. It concerns tens of thousands of children, born and yet to be born, the future generation of this country at risk of being disadvantaged. It is not every child; and the risk is not a certainty. But the risk is too great to bear, and the price of eliminating the poison is far from being too high to pay.

## KEEPING ALIVE THE HELSINKI PROCESS

Foreign ministers are converging on Madrid this week to address the meeting which has been reviewing the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 since September, 1980. The fact they think their journey worthwhile testifies to the continuing importance of the Helsinki document. Yet the reason for their journey, Poland, is so controversial that it could bleed away the last flickers of life from the Helsinki process.

The odds are that a formal breakdown will be avoided because no one wants to be responsible for it, but there is a danger that agreement on a concluding document will now become so difficult that the meeting will be diverted into a series of face-saving adjournments. The Americans already clearly that they want an adjournment until next September. The West Germans, on the other hand, would prefer to keep talking. The British are in search of compromise, believing that there is little chance of a useful agreement at present but that the process must be kept alive. The neutrals and non-aligned, whose draft concluding document was within sight of winning gen-

eral agreement before the military takeover in Poland, are particularly anxious that hope should not be abandoned.

It is obvious that Poland must be discussed. For the Poles and their allies to suggest otherwise is absurd. The imposition of martial law clearly breaches several sections of the Helsinki Final Act, notably those on human and civil rights and international communications. If it was carried out under direct Soviet pressure it also breaches the sections on sovereignty and non-interference. It is precisely the sort of action which the Final Act is intended to prevent.

This has tempted some people to argue that if such a massive coach and horses can be driven through the Final Act it must be worthless and might as well be abandoned, especially as the Warsaw Pact countries are anyway guilty of continual lesser breaches. But nothing would be gained and much lost if this argument were to influence western policy. The Final Act was a very considerable diplomatic victory for the West. It did not give the Russians the confirmation of the status

quo which they sought. Instead it provided a charter for more open relations between east and west Europe which has been a constant embarrassment to them, and a source of constant hope to those working for a lowering of east-west barriers. It also provides a European forum in which not only Poland but a host of other issues can be raised.

The fact that the Final Act is regularly breached (even to a limited extent by western countries) is no reason for abandoning it altogether. It embodies and legitimizes aspirations for a freer Europe. These aspirations are particularly strong in the smaller countries of east and west, but they should also be shared by larger powers. The Polish crisis is naturally a severe setback but it does not invalidate the aspirations. For the moment it probably makes a constructive agreement in Madrid impossible, but western participants should not allow this to jeopardize the process of consultation and mutual criticism which the Helsinki conference set in motion. It serves Western interests more than it serves those of the Soviet Union.

## FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture is a self-made man. He made his fortune from scratch, starting without capital and operating freely within his chosen market. He is now a farmer of some consequence, having just sold one farm and being about to buy another. It is thus strange to witness his reluctance to create conditions in the market for agricultural land which could enable other young men without capital to achieve the successes and the wealth which Mr Walker achieved in his own commercial activities some years ago. Mr Walker is resolutely refusing to change the basis of agricultural tenancies, though his own department does not dispute the merits of the argument for doing so. The Minister's excuse is that the politics of the case are un-

have such impregnable and unending security about them. The effect on the pattern of land distribution is bad since it means that more and more land is being concentrated in the hands of either of institutions or of large freeholders who are waiting for each and every reversion of a tenancy. At least 30 per cent of the land transactions in the last 12 months has involved land being bought by major institutions.

The pattern of reasonably small agricultural tenancies which tend to be more efficient than those under owner occupation is therefore being threatened. Moreover, the opportunities for young men to enter farming as entrepreneurs are becoming few and far between, since they can apply only to men with the kind of capital which can buy land freehold at the exorbitant prices now obtaining. Some refuge may be found in agricultural partnerships and there is some talk about a scheme for shorter tenancies. Today the National Farmers Union will discuss a motion calling on Dr Walker to proceed forthwith to introduce a bill along lines agreed with The Country Landowners Association, the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, The Tenant Farmers Association and The

Association of Small Farmers—in other words, every body which has an interest in the situation.

They are all agreed on the need for such an amendment to liberate land and create opportunities for young men to go into farming without the need for enormous purchase capital behind them. What capital they had could be employed as working capital, to the greater efficiency of farming and the benefit of the country as a whole.

Mr Walker initially declined because he felt that, unless the Labour Party agreed to such an amendment there was no point in passing it. With the falling away of the Labour Party's chances of becoming the next government, that excuse has been replaced by one suggesting that the Conservative Government would attract unnecessary political criticism for passing a Bill that could be held up as a "Landlords Charter" in spite of the fact that all parties affected by the Bill want it to be passed. In the meantime, British farming in spite of its excellence is facing a future with few outlets for committed young entrepreneurs to stay in agriculture. Mr Walker, remembering his own youthful achievements, should not let his political apprehensions unduly dominate a case which has such merit.

## Housing policy

From Mr Kurt Klappholz  
Sir, The Director of Shelter (February 2) extols the benefits of rented accommodation, be it "public or private", and is anxious to extend its availability. I cannot be the only one among your readers to find Shelter a strange source for such a sermon. Shelter was one of the major pressure groups in favour of the 1974 Rent Act which

finally eliminated the availability of new privately rented accommodation to residents of this country. Yet, there is not even a mention of rent control among Mr McIntosh's proposals to "... allow each tenure system to develop..."

It seems that, despite the ever-growing sophistication of economic journalism, teachers of economics are not yet wasting their time by continuously emphasizing the role of demand

and supply in markets. Having considered the supply side, perhaps Mr McIntosh and Shelter will now mount a campaign, as energetic as that of 1974, for the abolition of rent control, at least for new tenants?

Yours faithfully,  
KURT KLAPPHOLZ,  
Reader in Economics,  
The London School of Economics  
and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2.  
February 4

## Reinforcing powers of European Court

From Mr H. F. O. Beusher  
Sir, I refer to the letter of Mr Alan Tyrrell, QC, regarding the powers of the European Court and delays by member states in complying with its judgments (February 4).

I accept that from a constitutional point of view "delay is different from denial", but other points of view should not be ignored. In commerce justice too late is not justice.

The following example will illustrate the point. The European Court condemned certain discriminatory taxes on Scotch whisky in France on February 27, 1980. Nearly two years later tax discrimination still exists, and the French Government has indicated its intention that it shall continue at least until February 1983.

The total amount of tax unlawfully levied on Scotch whisky imports into France between the date of the European Court's judgment and the end of 1981 was more than £60m. The effect on competition between Scotch whisky and French spirits not bearing such tax can be readily imagined.

Yet no satisfactory sanction exists. Neither the Court nor the Commission can impose a fine on the French Government; the importers of Scotch whisky cannot avoid paying the unlawful tax, by enacting in the Loi de Finances 1981 a provision making reclaim of tax dependent upon proof that the tax was not passed on to the consumers, the French Government has made such reclaim as difficult as possible (how can it be proved at what price the whisky would have been sold in the absence of the discriminatory tax); there is, we understand, little prospect of obtaining significant damages for the reduction in sales because, although such reduction must inevitably have taken place, the amount of the reduction cannot in practice be quantified.

There is in such cases every incentive to a government to delay compliance with the law for the benefit of its Exchequer and the protection of national producers against competition. If it becomes the habit of governments to disregard judgments of three or four years, Community law cannot but be brought into disrepute.

Yours faithfully,  
H. F. O. BEUSHER,  
Director-General,  
The Scotch Whisky Association,  
27 Athol Crescent,  
Edinburgh.  
February 5

## Blood and Grail

From Professor David Lowenthal  
Sir, May a geographer join a Latinist, in January 27 discussion of Bevis Hillier's (January 18) reference to Arcadia?

The legendary Arcadian fatherland referred to in *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* is an invention of Virgil, whose Eclogues confabulate that bleak and chilly Greek upland with the luxuriant charms of Sicily. Forgotten throughout the Middle Ages, Virgil's Arcadia re-emerged only in the Renaissance. Moreover, the critical phrase, "Et in Arcadia ego," could hardly have been the motto of the Plantards' reputed Merovingian ancestors, for it was unknown until the 1620s, when it appeared as the title of a painting by Giovanni Francesco Guercino.

The alteration of that phrase's original meaning, "Even I, death am in Arcadia," to "I, too, was in Arcadia," reflects less admonitory and more comforting images of Arcadia itself, signalled by the replacement of the skull and scythes of death by a landscape painting of the subject (c. 1630, Chatsworth) with pensive shepherds contemplating a monument in his more famous painting (c. 1636, Louvre). Thereafter, "the Arcadians are not so much warned of an implacable future as they are immersed in mellow meditation on a beautiful past."

The later and now common rendering of the phrase does violence to the Latin grammar but justice to the meaning of all subsequent depictions of the pastoral scene, which transform what had been a menace into a remembrance.

Yours pastorially,  
DAVID LOWENTHAL,  
Department of Geography,  
University College London,  
26 Bedford Way, WC1.  
February 2

## A mature view

From Miss Julia Hobhouse  
Sir, I obviously do not know the contents of the possible Channel 4 programme for the elderly, but it would seem to me that there is a need for just such a programme. Not on the lines of *Ovaline* culinary delicacies, I agree, but to give information of the services available to older people.

No elderly person deserves to be patronized, but the fact remains that there are elderly people who do not have relations or friends to look after them, and who may not be able to get about very easily and are therefore often unaware of the many organizations and facilities open to them.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIA HOBHOUSE,  
26 Bishop's Road, SW6.  
February 4

## Mr Tebbit's Bill and the unions

From the General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association

Sir, My association does not take the view that no government would ever pass legislation of which trade unions do not approve. Nevertheless we, like other unions, are entitled to ask of any proposed legislation affecting us, what is its purpose? Is it merely to weaken trade unions or is it to improve industrial relations overall? In our view it is the latter question to which any proposed legislation in this field should address itself.

By that test, Mr Tebbit's Bill fails. It is simply an anti-union Bill, even if it is one good deal less ferocious than many expected at the time that Mr Tebbit was appointed.

There is not a word in the Bill directed towards the development of improved worker participation arrangements, which is the single most important industrial relations reform required in this country.

The Bill proposes to outlaw union labour only contracts, a feature which is much applauded in the press. This needs to be considered however in relation to the withdrawal of statutory procedures for determining trade union recognition issues, which was a feature of Mr Prior's earlier legislation. The effect, therefore, is a positive discouragement of trade union recruitment, and of those recruited obtaining recognition from their employers for bargaining purposes.

This is particularly damaging to the prospects of professional and managerial staffs, a category which today has just as much need of proper representation and negotiating rights as any other.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BATTERSBY,  
Chairman, Fisheries Working Group, European Parliament,  
Humbertside European Liaison Office,  
237 Marlborough Avenue,  
Hull.  
North Humberside,  
February 2

## Ethnic schools

From Mr R. K. D. Shah  
Sir, Not only has Mr David Smith failed (letter, January 26) to counter Lord Scarman's timely and authoritative repudiation of the idea of ethnic schools with any sound argument, but he is wrong in assuming that a majority or even a significant minority of Asian parents would favour separate Islamic or Hindu schools along the lines of the voluntary aided or maintained denominational schools and secondarily that retaining pride in their own cultural heritage necessarily implies or involves the establishment of such institutions.

There is no evidence of a "growing demand" for separate schools. Those misguided ones who speak of them are either ill-informed or improperly motivated. There is also confusion with the other topical concept of education in a multi-ethnic society, where the emphasis is on reworking the curricula and textbooks and reappraising policies and attitudes in order to accommodate the sensitivities, cultural and migration histories and religious beliefs of ethnic minorities. This is possible of achievement within the existing framework of education without

doing damage to the legitimate aspirations of religious minorities.

The distinction between the denominational schools referred to by Mr Smith, all of which are rooted in the same basic Judeo-Christian cultural ethos, and those proposed for the Islamic and Hindu faiths is that the latter will be almost wholly founded on colour. Of course Lord Scarman is right in saying that such schools would lead to sectarian divisions within our society, well down in fact on the road of apartheid. The sooner therefore this red herring of an issue is squashed the better it will be for everyone, for, if the right balance is to be struck between the rights on the one hand and duties on the other of ethnic minorities still struggling against disadvantages as citizens in their new homeland, then the only way forward is by expansion of and absorption into the present social structure in the broadest sense, and not by creation of parallel institutions.

Yours faithfully,  
R. K. D. SHAH,  
Wayne & Company,  
5 Laings Corner,  
London Road,  
Mitcham,  
Surrey,  
January 27

doctors, all of whom gained a great deal of expertise and one of whom has a higher qualification in forensic medicine.

Unfortunately the male divisional police surgeons, of whom there are 35, have persuaded the police to refer these cases of assaulted women and children to them. Very few of them have any special training in this field and must see only a few cases each per year, therefore they will never have enough experience to be expert.

I understand that similar changes have taken place in other parts of the country.

Consideration should be given urgently to the setting up of special units to deal with victims of sexual assault away from police stations where properly trained staff who are skilled, sympathetic, and have facilities for after-care are available. They are urgently needed, not only for victims of rape, but to deal with child victims of sexual abuse where minor signs of great importance are often missed.

Yours sincerely,  
RAINE ROBERTS,  
459 Altrincham Road,  
Wythenshawe,  
Manchester.  
February 2

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Yours faithfully,  
DEREK V. DAMERELL,  
Chief Executive,  
British United Provident Association,  
Provident House,  
Essex Street, WC2.

## The Tawney tradition

From Mr John Horam, MP for Gateshead West (Social Democrat)

Sir, Since there have been quite a few letters about it, may I just set the record straight about the Tawney Society. It is not the SDP's "think tank"; indeed it has no official standing in the party at all. It is simply a group of party members who have got together to think about policy from a particular point of view—and nothing wrong in that.

Where they have gone wrong is to invoke the name of R. H. Tawney who, great man though he was, was undoubtedly a socialist, and socialists belong in the Labour Party, not the SDP. Yours, etc.

JOHN HORAM, Vice-chairman, SDP Policy Committee, House of Commons.

## From Mr Gordon Smith

Sir, What would Tawney have thought about his enforced association with the SDP? For that matter, would Quintus Fabius Maximus have regarded his intimate connexion with the Labour Party?

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON SMITH,  
London School of Economics  
and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2.  
February 8

## Slimming course for universities

From Mr R. G. Chapman  
Sir, May I through your columns reply to the protest against cuts in Government funding to universities made by the Vice-Chancellor of London University (feature, February 2).

My qualification for doing so is that I am an unrepentant member of the public at large, which the vice-chancellor mentions, who is making no outcry about these cuts. I am also an alumnus, for whose financial assistance the vice-chancellor hankers, of one of the older universities (five very happy if not very taxing years, some 30 years ago). I must admit that I would not have donated one penny to the vice-chancellor for the universities during the 20 years of governmental largesse, nor would I now.

To combat the indifference of the public the vice-chancellor dwells upon the value of a most selective group of disciplines: medicine, dentistry, chemistry, electronics, engineering and the law. Few would disagree that these subjects are necessary and well suited to be studied at university.

But what of the subjects that the vice-chancellor fails to mention: sociology, for example? The public at large might well wonder if the Government needs to finance over 100 courses at 42 universities.

It might also question the necessity in difficult and economic times of such courses as physical education, sports science and recreation management, peace studies, brewing, public policy-making and administration, or social studies with social work, to quote very briefly from a publication made for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. By omitting such subjects from his paragraphs does the vice-chancellor, perhaps, sense that the public is not so convinced of their academic worth?

It is the vast expansion both of universities and their range of subject that has, I suspect, lowered the status of the university world in the public view and has led the public to accept as reasonable these cuts. There is a feeling, however wrong it may be, that the common rooms of power (like the corridors) are no longer open to a public service but have become, as well, a self-service.

The vice-chancellor opens his article by quoting a car sticker, "Britain needs its universities", and asks if 10,000 stickers can be wrong. If I have noted 20,000 stickers saying "Britain needs its universities: fewer and smaller", might I not be right?

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. CHAPMAN,  
Deben Manor,  
Saffron Walden, Essex.

## Health partnership

From the Chief Executive of BUPA

Sir, The NHS and Independent sector: your leader today (February 5) says so much about the problems, and in such balanced terms, that there is no call to repeat it.

There are two points only upon which I would like briefly to comment. Growth in health insurance in 1981, in percentage terms, was only half that of 1980. My colleagues and I never thought that those prophets who, twelve months ago, talked confidently of one in five of the population being privately insured by 1985, were right. Now we can see that the curve, as we expected, is flattening out.

Next, to emphasise that our aim is yours: to discuss and cooperate with and every other willing and interested party—and Party—to produce a "mutually beneficial partnership". It is unfortunate that the strongly doctrinaire approach of a minority which exists in the United Kingdom currently presents obstacles to such collaboration. We for our part would be very willing to explore with anyone, whether initially they agree with us or not, to secure the maximum of agreement in the interests of the community.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK V. DAMERELL,  
Chief Executive,  
British United Provident Association,  
Provident House,  
Essex Street, WC2.

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Yours faithfully,  
GORDON SMITH,  
London School of Economics  
and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2.  
February 8

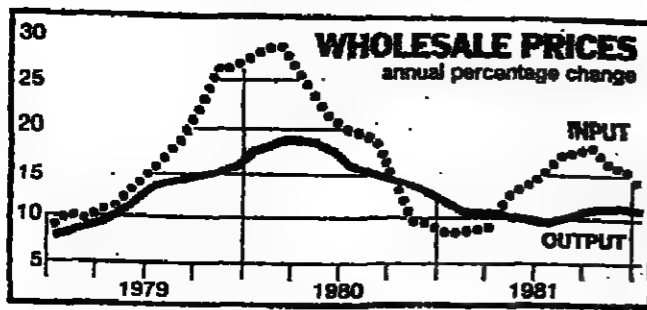






## BUSINESS NEWS

## Wholesale prices fall



The annual rate of increase in factory gate prices fell last month for the first time since July to 11 per cent from 11.1 per cent in December. This was despite an increase of 1 per cent in the month, due partly to seasonal bunching of price increases at the start of the year. Fuel and raw materials costs also rose sharply last month, by 0.8 per cent, with higher milk prices the chief culprit. But this was not enough to stop the downward trend seen since the autumn. The increase in input prices over 12 months fell to 13.4 per cent last month from 15.1 per cent in December.

## Swansea to lose 100 jobs

Ashland United Kingdom Chemical, the United States-owned company which manufactures carbon black, is to close its Swansea factory in mid-May with the loss of 100 jobs. It blamed the fall in demand from the tyre and rubber industries for carbon black. "During the relatively short period of the last two years or so, we have seen two of our four United Kingdom competitors going out of business because of over-capacity in the said."

## Sales figures rebased

The Department of Trade, which publishes the retail sales statistics, announced yesterday that the index is to be rebased on 1978=100 from January 1982, to be published later this month. The present base year is 1976. Final figures for retail sales in December show a seasonally adjusted drop of 1 per cent on the month, rather less than the 1 per cent fall indicated by the provisional figures. Sales in 1981 as a whole were up 2 per cent on 1980, with a small decline in food sales offset by a rise in non-food business.

## Hughes grows in Belfast

Hughes Tool Company of Houston, Texas, is to expand in Belfast with another plant employing 250 within two years. It is to lease a 50,000 sq ft Government-owned factory at Monkstown where production will begin in the autumn. Initially with 120 workers. The total investment including government grants will be £7m. Hughes was the first American company to establish manufacturing operation in Northern Ireland nearly 30 years ago and employs about 500 people at its existing factories in East Belfast.

## Gill chief quits

Mr Pat Aitken has resigned as chairman of Gill & Duffus commodity traders. Mr D. C. F. Pearson has been appointed non-executive chairman and Mr R. E. Blackman will continue as deputy chairman but become group chief executive. The company lost £6m from unauthorized commodity dealing in Hongkong last year. The Soviet natural gas pipeline is a "Trojan Horse threatening Europe's energy security," Mr James Moynihan, Conservative MEP for London South, said yesterday. Europe would be 20 per cent dependent on Soviet supplies by 1990 if the project went ahead.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Bank springs £750m surprise

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 570.7 down 7.4  
FT 100 64.58 down 5.47  
FT All share 327.83 down 2.1  
Bargains 13,058

Fears of a further rise in United States interest rates kept buyers away and the market opened the final week of the long three-week account with the FT index falling 7.4 to 570.7.

Glits closed as much as £1 down in long dates after the Bank of England's surprise announcement of a new £750m tranche of the Exchequer 13 1/4 per cent 1987 stock.

Dealers said it was most unusual for the Bank to make a new issue on a Monday but it could suggest that money supply figures due today will be better than expected. Short dated ended down 1/4 in very thin trading.

Leading shares closed with falls ranging from 2p to 5p, with Becton 7p off at 242p, GEC 3p down at 322p, GKN slipping 3p to 183p and ICI, at 338p, down 4p.

Engineers were cautious ahead of half-year figures from the Dowty Group which may be accompanied Thursday by news that the group has lost a major United States contract. Dowty lost 8p to 119p while British Aerospace was 5p easier at 190p and Smiths Industries shed 8p to 348p.

There was an early speculative flurry in the insurance

sector which saw Eagle Star reach 354p but slip back to 347p, up 2p on the day. Insurance brokers benefited from the firmer dollar, with Willis Faber gaining 8p to 403p.

There was buying in television shares as Trident reported that revenue in the last quarter was 28 per cent up on the corresponding period. Among those marked up were Anglia, 1p better at 129p, and LWT also improving 1p to 135p.

Costain were a feature among building shares, gaining 2p to 274p on news of a Nigerian contract worth around £100m. But elsewhere dealers reported some selling as buyers held off from what has been a popular sector in recent weeks.

Blue Circle were down 6p. London Brick were unchanged at 76p after a broker's circular and Marley were also unchanged at 45p amid rumours of a possible rights issue.

Redland slipped 3p as the group was rumoured to be in line to take over Blue Circle's aggregates business after failing to acquire Hovvorth.

In the sector included Rugby, down 1 1/2p at 95p, and Tarmac, 1p off at 435p.

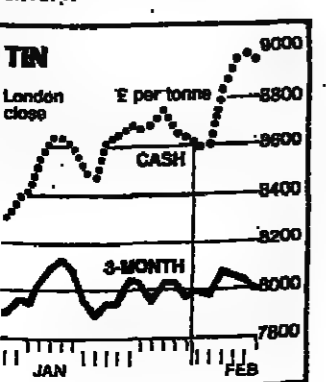
Fisons were a bright spot and rose 7p to 248p following the sale of the fertilizer business and growing hopes of a bid. This comes after a 61p leap in the share price last week.

Figures due today gave a 10p boost to Amstrad to 240p while Donald Macpherson were up 2p at 85p.

## COMMODITIES

● Rubber prices fell in sympathy with a weak Far Eastern market, reaching their lowest level during the present contract. March rubber closed at 47.9p a kilogramme while April was 48.9p a kilogramme.

● Tin prices eased a little yesterday after reaching record heights at the end of last week. Cash tin closed at £3,955 a tonne, down £15, and three months metal was £37 lower at £7,985 a tonne. Trading continued at a reasonable level as dealers tried to decide whether to cover their positions or accept losses on the still wide backwardation. Prices were held by more offers of tin for immediate delivery.



## OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,323.52 down 42.18  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,779.41 down 22.47

## CURRENCIES

● The dollar was firm on fears that interest rates will stay high. Sterling also did well despite lower oil prices.

## LONDON CLOSE

Sterling 1.8615 up 25 points  
Index 91.9 up 0.3  
DM 4.3950  
Fr 11.1600  
Yen 436.00  
Dollar Index 111.7 up 0.4  
DM 2.3575 up 115 pts  
Gold \$378.75 down \$5.50

## MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates were slightly firmer where changed. The Bank bought £312m of bills at unchanged rates in response to a £350m shortage. Domestic rates: Base rates 14%  
3-month interbank 14 1/4%  
Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 15 1/2-15 3/4  
3 month DM 10 1/2-10 3/4  
3 month Fr 15 1/2-15 3/4

## Opec ready to act on price-cutting threat

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Middle East oil producers are on the verge of calling an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to discuss the dramatic state of price-cutting that is threatening stability on world oil markets.

Dr Mansour al-Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates oil minister and president of Opec, is to discuss the possibility of an emergency session in talks this week with Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister.

The next scheduled Opec meeting is in Ecuador on May 20, but the present world oil glut has imposed intense pressure on the Saudi benchmark price of \$34 a barrel. Saudi crude is trading on the spot market at a discount of at least 50 cents a barrel, while Iran is reported to be undercutting the official rate by about 80 cents.

News of a possible Opec meeting came as the British National Oil Corporation confirmed a North Sea oil price cut of \$1.50 a barrel from midnight. This follows representations from British Petroleum which, like other big oil companies including Esso and Shell, has been making considerable losses on downstream refining operations in the United Kingdom and Europe.

Dr al-Otaiba, who was in London at the weekend for talks on the problem, is now in Abu Dhabi where he is due to meet Sheikh Yamani and Sheikh Ali al-Sabeh, the



Dr. al-Otaiba: talks on emergency session.

Kuwaiti oil minister, at a session of the so-called International Energy Committee, an exclusive group of mainly Arab oilmen, bankers and economists.

He said he would be discussing with his counterparts the possibility of "adopting a decision cutting current conditions in the oil market at an emergency Opec conference".

Reports from the Gulf indicated that Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil producer, may reduce its present daily output of 8 million barrels in a bid to restore equilibrium to the oil market.

Mr Johannes Witteveen, chairman of the energy committee and a former managing director of the International Monetary Fund, was quoted by the Gulf News Agency as say-

ing that any reductions in the price of crude would not have short term effects in restoring stability to the oil market which was suffering from a severe shortage of demand. Saudi production is reported to have fallen below the 8 million barrels a day mark for the first time in recent years, but no official announcement is expected before the projected Opec meeting.

Iran's price cuts, made in an attempt to boost exports, could trigger similar moves elsewhere and upset the price re-evaluation achieved by Opec members last autumn. Kuwait is said to be angered by the reductions and has recently also criticized Saudi's "still too high levels" of output.

The decision by BNOC to trim prices is the first attempt by the state corporation to lead a downward trend. Since last year its rates have been cut firmly to the Saudi prices and North Sea oil has been sold at a premium of up to \$3 a barrel. Last night's move has reduced the differential over the official Saudi price to \$1 a barrel.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is probably viewing the upheaval in the oil market with mixed feelings. The BNOC move could cost the Treasury up to £300m a year in tax but lower oil prices could reduce the pressure from industry in the United Kingdom for some relief from high energy costs in next month's Budget.

## North Sea aids industrial revival

By Frances Williams

North Sea oil is laying the foundations for a big revival in Britain's industrial prospects, according to an analysis published yesterday by Hoare Govett, the City stockbroking firm.

Benefits are being felt not only through the large contribution to the balance of payments and government revenues, but also in rapid growth of investment in industry and a corresponding improvement in productivity, the report argues.

It predicts that by 1985 North Sea oil will be contributing £20,640m to Britain's overseas current balance, more than three times last year's contribution of £6,640m, which in turn more than accounted for the estimated record surplus of £6,000m in 1981.

In 1982 the balance of payments impact is expected to rise by more than a third to £9,210m. Latest Treasury fore-

casts predict a current account surplus of half last year's level at £3,000m. The bulk of the oil contribution will thus go on financing a big deficit in non-oil trade.

Hoare Govett estimates that government revenues from oil in 1981 totalled £5,450m, close to official estimates, equivalent to 9 per cent of all tax revenues and 21 per cent of gross national product. This year the brokers expect oil revenues to be up by more than 40 per cent at £9,310m, falling back somewhat in later years with the ending of supplementary petroleum duty.

The forecasts assume a sharp fall in the real (inflation-adjusted) price of oil in dollar terms over the next few years. But a weak dollar means that the sterling price increases in subsequent years to 1985 after falling 2 per cent in 1982.

Oil production will rise until 1985, after which it will stabilize for five years before declining to roughly present levels by the end of the century, the brokers predict.

Hoare Govett, in sharp contrast to most other commentators, claims that Britain is embarking upon a process of re-industrialization, rather than de-industrialization.

The benefits of North Sea oil have enabled British industry to begin re-equipping itself, the brokers say. Spending on plant and machinery has risen by an average of about 8 per cent a year in real terms since the mid-1970s, compared to 3 1/2 per cent a year or so in the 1950s and 1960s.

This investment has been used chiefly to replace increasingly expensive labour, enabling the same amount of output to be produced with fewer people, and leading to big productivity gains.

## Whitehall tightens ads budget

The Government, which spends about £21m a year on advertisements persuading people to wear seat belts, join the armed forces or save energy, is tightening up on its payments to advertising agencies.

Negotiations with its 14 agencies have been begun by the Central Office of Information (COI) to reduce expenditure from April.

A new system of payment, the "cost-plus", introduced two years ago, under which agencies were paid the costs of their campaign plus 25 per cent profit, up to a ceiling of 15 per cent of the campaign's media budget, is to be scrapped. In future the COI will negotiate payments with individual agencies.

"Our objective is to spend as little as we can, consistent with good work," John Bessant, the COI's director of advertising says. "We are now having discussions with individual agencies and there will be adjustments to the present system."

The move follows a review of the present remuneration system by the Government's Advisory Committee on Advertising, a body of marketing-oriented businessmen chaired by Gerry Draper, the commercial operations director of British Airways.

"We are spending a lot of money on advertising, so we are in a good position to get better terms both from the media owners and from our advertising agencies," he says. "The 'cost-plus' system was rather cumbersome and we are not proposing to continue it."

The introduction of the "cost-plus" system caused a furor among the COI's advertising agencies, 14 of which grouped together to oppose it. The agencies considered that the method would result in lower payments to agencies than the traditional system, whereby an agency received 15 per cent of the media budget of a campaign, plus a markup on the production costs.

Another reason, however, was the Government's insistence on auditors monitoring the agencies' campaign costs.

In the end, the agencies accepted the new system relatively happily but it now seems clear that the COI intends to use the information gleaned through the "cost-plus" system to negotiate greater savings.

"We have already saved considerable sums for the taxpayer in the past three years by reducing the number of agencies the Government uses," says Draper, "and we shall be saving even more."



President Reagan: forecasts Speaker Tip O'Neill: Democratic objections.

## Congress condemns 'unrealistic' budget

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 8

United States congressional budget officials today released details of a huge programme by programme breakdown of President Reagan's 1983 budget which claim to show that his economic forecasts are overly optimistic and the deficit greatly understated.

In an as yet unpublished document economists for the Congressional Budget Office say a more realistic forecast of the 1983 budget deficit is \$139,000m (£85,482m) up sharply from the \$91,500m projection in the Reagan budget.

The deficit will climb this high in the opinion of the Congressional Budget Office because Mr Reagan is unlikely to get the domestic cuts he has requested and because his basic economic assumptions are wrong.

The "overly optimistic" forecasts contained in Mr Reagan's new budget formally transmitted to Congress today are consistent with his past record, the analysts argue.

Twice recently Mr Reagan's forecasts have been wrong, resulting in costly mistakes which have pushed the deficit upwards and sent new alarm signals to Wall Street, the report says.

From March, 1981, to January, 1982, for example, the administration has had to revise its outlay estimates upwards and its revenue estimates downwards to add \$56,900m to the deficit in 1982 alone.

The Congressional Budget Office report predicts this trend will continue and that deficits of well over \$100,000m can be expected for the next several years.

This will result in a severe credit crackdown as Federal deficits crowd business investment out of the markets by eating continuing high interest rates.

Based on the Congressional Budget Office calculations, interest rates in 1982 and 1983 will be significantly higher than the Japanese projection, rising to 12 per cent and 13.2 per cent respectively.

The Reagan forecasts predict rates of 11.7 per cent and 10.5 per cent during the two-year period.

Projections of less rapid growth are based on forecasts of slim export growth due to the high value of the dollar, a restrictive monetary policy and stagnation in spending by State and local governments.

## Japan 'could ease trade imbalance'

By Our Commercial Editor

There was some progress on improving the climate for British as well as other EEC exports to Japan in that Tokyo now accepted there was concern in Europe about the trade imbalance. Mr Biffen told the Japanese that in the United Kingdom there was a serious concern particularly when there was such high unemployment.

Japan is now working at the barriers to imports thrown up by domestic testing procedures and Mr Biffen asked particularly for simplification of regulations affecting pharmaceuticals and chemical imports.

## Dutch panic as Fokker quits joint air venture

The Hague, Feb 8.—Panic reigned on the Stock Exchange here today as small investors scrambled to sell shares in Fokker the Dutch aircraft builder, following its shock decision to scrap its joint venture with McDonnell Douglas of the United States.

Fokker shares tumbled nearly 14 per cent as a government spokesman confirmed that the firm had lost \$64m by pulling out of the joint venture.

The two firms were to produce 150-seat aircraft, the MDF-100, to compete with Airbus and Boeing.

Meanwhile, trade union sources said the Dutch Government was now being pressured to force new links with the manufacturers of the European Airbus.

The Dutch trade unions were highly critical of Fokker for pulling out of the Airbus project several years ago and for refusing to make its studies available to other industries.

Fokker's latest pull-out, announced on Friday, also caused consternation in Japan, where the government had set aside about \$6.5m for the joint project.

Almost immediately, McDonnell Douglas in Japan announced that its United States head office would continue negotiations with the Japanese to complete the MDF-100 project.

Fokker said it was scrapping the MDF-100 project because of high fuel prices that discouraged buyers and problems with the choice of an engine for the MDF-100.

Dutch sources noted particularly that orders from two United States airlines, Delta and United Air Lines, had contributed largely to the decision.

Emergency import packages aimed at trade liberalization was welcomed by Mr Biffen but he was cautious about its effects. "We just have to wait and see what in fact happens; what matters is the effect that comes through in the trade figures," he said.

Mr Biffen looked to further growth of investment both ways between Japan and Britain. In Korea, a number of British companies were now showing interest in investment now Korea had relaxed guidelines on investment.

## Courtaulds cuts by computer

By Bill Johnstone  
American computers costing \$1.5m are being installed at a Courtaulds clothing factory in St Helens, Merseyside, making it one of the most sophisticated garment factories in Europe. Courtaulds has made the investment despite the recession in the textile industry, and if it proves successful another five computers will be bought.

The AMS system, which is expected to be operational by May, when staff have been trained to use it, was made by Gerber Garment Technology, of Connecticut.

The computer produces the most economic layout of patterns on the fabrics and provides a plan for cutting. The computer, which replaces a largely manual system, reduces waste by about 25 per cent and produces a higher quality product.

An earlier version of the computer has been used successfully at the company's Liverpool factory for six years.

Mr Denis Stone, the director of Courtaulds Apparel, with responsibility for the Liverpool system, said: "The new system, by improving speed and accuracy, and boosting productivity, will put the company in a better position to respond even more quickly to a changing and highly volatile fashion scene."

Courtaulds, like most companies in the textile industry, has felt the bite of recession. In the last two years more than 35 per cent of the group's British workforce has been cut.

The St Helens factory, which has lost 20 per cent and now employs 600, is one of 44 partment works in the United Kingdom within Courtaulds Apparel, part of the consumer products group of Courtaulds. More than 1.5 million garments a year, worth £5m, are manufactured at St Helens. The top eight divisions in the clothing group buy fabric worth £5m between them each year.

St Helens produces children's garments for most of the large chainstores and its principal customer is Marks & Spencer.

Courtaulds is confident that the new investment will provide the potential for more jobs at St Helens. Mr Stone said: "This major investment in computerized technology is a measure of the faith that Courtaulds Apparel has in the British clothing industry."

The consumer products group of Courtaulds sold goods worth £362m in the last financial year with a total workforce of 27,200 which was reduced by 5,300 over the period.

## Engineering Council launched

At the inaugural meeting of the Engineering Council in London yesterday, (seated) chairman, Sir Kenneth Corfield, (left), chairman of Standard Telephone and Cables with Sir Monty Finniston, whose report on the engineering industry prompted the Government to set up the new council and who made a courtesy call at the meeting to wish the new venture well. Standing left to right: Mr David Plastow, managing director and chief executive, Vickers; Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association; Mr Peter Marten, partner, Oscar Faber and Partners, consulting engineers; Mr

Ralph Quartano, chief executive, Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund; Mr Michael Harrison, chief education officer, City of Sheffield; Professor Derek Embrey, executive technical director, AB Electronics; Dr John Horlock, vice-chancellor, Open University; Professor Gordon Beveridge, head of Strathclyde University's department of chemical and process engineering; Mr Derek Roberts, director of research, General Electric; Baroness Platt, vice-chairman, Technical Education Council; Viscount Caldecote, chairman, Delta Group and Finance for Industry; Professor Sir Alan Harris,

partner, Harris and Sutherland, consulting engineers; Mr L. E. Heard, acting secretary, Engineering Council; Mr Geoffrey Dray, general secretary, Engineering Council; Mr Geoffrey Dray, general secretary, National and Local Government Officers' Association; Mr Ronald Hooker, chairman, Henry Sykes, Dubilier and James Austin Holdings; Mr John Fairclough, managing director, IBM United Kingdom Laboratories; and Mr Geoffrey Hall, director, Brighton Polytechnic. Sir Alistair Frame, deputy chairman, RTZ, who is also a member of the council, who was not at the meeting.

## The rich get richer, the poor get poorer

By Melvyn Westlake

The distribution of income in Britain is becoming more unequal, according to the Government's own figures. The main reason is the rise in unemployment. This, together with an increasing number of pensioners, means that the bottom 40 per cent of British households are getting a diminishing share of total income, while the top 40 per cent are getting a rising share.

The fall in employment makes this trend inevitable before allowing for taxes and benefits. But figures published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office, show that taxation and benefit policies have done little to counteract this development.

The bottom 40 per cent also have a declining share of net household incomes. Their share fell from 20.4 per cent in 1976 to 19.1 per cent in 1980. The share of the top 40 per cent of households (after allowing for taxes and benefits) rose from 71 per cent to 72.4 per cent.

The figures confirm that many people are depending on

benefits of various kinds. Cash benefits represented a higher proportion of gross income for the bottom 40 per cent of households last year than it did four years earlier. On the other hand, changes in personal taxes mostly helped households in the middle and at the top of the income range.

After changes in personal taxes, these groups saw their gross income reduced by 5 per cent less in 1980 than in 1976. There was a smaller gain at the bottom end.

The distribution of gross income is very wide. In 1980, the tenth of households with the lowest original income (before benefits and taxes) had an average of income of only £10. The next 10 per cent had an average of only £330. The top 10 per cent had an average of £17,580.

Allowing for cash benefits and benefits in kind, the net income of the bottom 10 per cent of households is boosted to £2,570 in 1980, and the next 10 per cent to £2,530. Net income of the top 10 per cent is reduced to £12,360 in 1980.

# Stick with Smith and Nephew... Believe in Britain

## Recession proof Elastoplast

Smith & Nephew makes Elastoplast, Nivea cream and many other products that have decorated British bathrooms for years. Despite unexciting investment ratios - prospective yield of 5 per cent and price/earnings of 15 per cent - a number of major investors are looking at the group with interest. The shares are nudging the 1980-2 highs.

Mr Kenneth Kemp, the chairman, says exports and overseas growth were the main reason for the 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the current first half. James Capel considers the company has achieved consistent growth, benefits from lower sterling and has a number of promising new products. Philips and Drew maintains the shares are one of the most solid in the sector, since they are recession-proof. "Smith and Nephew is the share to buy when everything else is collapsing. This may be the wrong time in business cycle to get over-excited about them, but they are a solid performer," the broker says.

Unfamiliar Elastoplast and Nivea cream are widely regarded as virtually recession-proof and have been responsible for upholding the company's rating throughout 1981.



Mr Kemp: exports boosting profits

Among other products, Op-Site, a type of plastic skin which protects wounds from infection, has been the most successful. Sales have been rocketing, with British output exported to the United States for packaging. But analysts expect Op-Site's lead to be short-lived. Entry into the market by a major company such as Johnson and Johnson would cut the generous margins Smith makes. This intervention is expected in about a year.

Another Smith product with a scientific market lead is Crystonite. It is a component in making

plaster casts which can be X-rayed and immersed in water. But it is also five times more expensive than existing products and this has restricted its success.

The ordinary share closed the day very close to the high for the year at 112p.

North Kalgurli seems to have got the edge after the part bid from Metals Exploration. The chairman of the proposed expanded board remains Mr John Jones of North Kalgurli who was previously in the chair.

## Our speciality is skill

Would you buy a small Welsh loss-making engineering company in the present state of the economy? Two chartered accountants have just done precisely that (Sally White writes). And they are not merely using it as a shell; they intend to stay in engineering.

The company is W. Williams & Sons, of Caerphilly. The two accountants are Mr Nigel Rudd, 35, former troubleshooter to Mr John Mackenzie at London and Northern Group, and Mr Brian McGowan, 37, finance director in Hongkong for a Sime Darby offshoot. He, too, is ex-London and Northern, went on to P & O to be chief acquisitions man before joining Sime Darby.

Mr Rudd has built up a property and engineering group called C. Price since leaving London and Northern. This is the vehicle that has been used to buy a 51 per cent stake in Williams.

The shareholders they bought out are the Williams family, who started the business in 1905 as non-ferrous metal diecasters, founders, stockists and engineers.

The Williams track record has deteriorated recently. In the half year to June 1980 the group lost £515,000 on turnover of £3,320,000. The last full year of £570,000 on sales of £7.7m.

So why have Mr Rudd and Mr McGowan spent their money on Williams? They believe in British

engineering's specialized skills. For example, Williams owns a very profitable and well-known business reconditioning the rollers in steel mills. There is also a steel stockholding business that should be able to make more money. Then there is the advantage of bringing their wide range of experience to bear on what has been a local family run business.

Mr Rudd is now chairman, and Mr McGowan managing director, jointly with Mr Chris Phillips, a 61-year-old engineer whose wide experience in the industry is one of Williams' strengths.

"First we have to show what we can do. We have got to turn Williams round. After then, but only then, we will look for other small speciality engineering businesses to take over," Mr Rudd explained.

## Yen for a winner

Speculative money from the world's stock markets has been flowing into the shares of a Japanese company which is developing what it claims is an effective new technique for treating cancer (writes Drew Johnston).

The technique involves use of a chemical compound, Haematoporphyrin, to diagnose the cancer which is then subjected to an argon laser beam. And though trials are continuing, the initial results of the treatment's effectiveness are very good, its developers say.

The developer of the technique is the Aloka company, a subsidiary of Japan Radio, the electronics and defence group. The volume of trading in the company's shares has increased about 20 times over the past few weeks. The share price rose to ¥950, (about £7.10), but has drifted down with the rest of the Tokyo equity market, and stands at ¥897.

Commentators on the Tokyo stock exchange say this volume increase highlights speculative desire to back a winner. No substantial rise in overall corporate profits is expected.

Internationally, fund managers have been persuaded that the shares are worth a gamble but analysts believe statistical data on the treatment's effectiveness so far has been slight.

Treatment of cancer by an argon laser is not in itself new, but Japan Radio claims its rivals have failed to develop diagnostic techniques. It also says its technique is simple to operate and is relatively cheap at about ¥15m (£35,000) per machine.

Two series of trials have been carried out and a third series is in progress. The first was carried out at Tsukuba University last year, when the laser was tested on beagles suffering from throat cancer.

The tumours were exposed to the laser beam for 10 minutes a day, and on the ninth day, the cancer was eliminated.

## NEWMAN IND

## Merger in loss-making ceramics

Newman Industries, the engineering and ceramics group is to get a new £1.4m loan from its leading shareholders, Singapore-based Cycle & Carriage which put £8m into the group 15 months ago.

This emerged yesterday when Newman announced it was merging its loss-making ceramic interests with Weymek to form Federated Potteries and that Mr John Williams, chairman for 18 months would resign once the deal was completed.

Newman will end up with 19.1 per cent of Federated

worth £53,000 at par for putting in almost £1m of cash and assets worth £500,000. It is also lending the new company £150,000 over three years.

Net assets of Weymek, in which UK Provident Holdings has a major stake, is around £150,000. UK Provident will have 40 per cent of the new company.

The remaining will split between Larpent Newton, investment advisors to UK Provident, the two managers of Weymek, Mr Ken Hilton and Mr John Stephenson, and Mr Nigel McLean, Newman's chief executive who will also take over as chairman from Mr Williams.

Mr Williams said yesterday: "It is significant that the deal could not have been achieved without the further substantial support from the company's largest shareholder."

## SHIP CANAL

## Losses deepen

The losses continue to increase at the Manchester Ship Canal where a continued downturn in volume has resulted in operational losses deepening from £3.3m to £3.7m.

Operating revenue is down from £24.4m to £22.8m figures which were arrived at after including increased rental income up from £1m to £1.3m and a surplus on land sales over the book value up from £23,000 to £62,000. But loan and investment income dipped from £1.4m to £15,000.

Lower interest charges of £596,000 against £609,000 left a net loss of £2.18m, an increase of £800,000 on last year.

Profits from the sale of investments amounted to £2.2m against £228,000, but was set against the figure for

## voluntary severance amounting to £2.38m against £781,000 last time.

The group blames the continuing fall in volume which showed a 770,000 tons shortfall on the comparable figure to £11.7m tons. Of this figure, the reduction of upper dock workings amounted to 170,000 tons.

An increase of 14 per cent on tariffs is another factor.

Once again shareholders will be asked to go without their dividend payment which last year amounted to 7.5p gross.

## FOSECO MINSEP

## CCL buy-out

Fosco Minsep, the international specialist chemical group, is to sell its wholly-owned subsidiary CCL Systems in a management buy-out worth £4m.

CCL, which makes prestressed and reinforced concrete, became part of Fosco Minsep in 1972. Its managing director, Mr Douglas Worthington, said yesterday that it had become increasingly clear that CCL's activities did not fit in with the long-term strategy of Fosco's Fosroc division.

Fosco will receive £4m, of which £3.3m will be in cash, less transaction costs of £200,000. A further £700,000 has already been paid as an interim dividend.

## BIDS AND DEALS

Marlin the Newsagent has agreed to buy 25 Springers stores for some £3.5m, plus stock at valuation in cash. No freeholds are included. For Marlin it forms part of an expansion programme for extra retail units to add to the already established chain of 482 outlets, and geographically, the locations of the Springers stores are ideally suited for Marlin's plans. The price will be financed by a medium-term loan. Without the benefit of the Christmas trade the acquisition expected to contribute only modestly in this financial year, but is expected to make a satisfactory contribution towards Marlin's profits in future years.

For Springers, the deal adds to the group's financial resources, and with capital and reserves in excess of £4m it gives it a platform for the rapid expansion of the group.

Younger Furniture Contracts have been signed by the joint receivers for the sale of the Younger Furniture business based at Monier Road, Bow, to Queensway Securities. The sale of the business protected the jobs of some 70 people, and the name of Younger Furniture, which is old-established in the trade. Mr Cohen of Queensway Securities Limited added that the business will be under the direction of Mr Simon Nickson with additional Directors and will carry on producing the current range with new models to be presented at the Trade Fair.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

Canadian Pacific Enterprises reported a net profit for 1981 of \$100.4m on 18 per cent tax. The board says that for the year, there was a significant increase in income from iron and steel, reflecting higher steel selling prices, increased volume and an improved product mix.

The improvement in income also came from agribusiness, real estate and other business.

There were reductions in earnings from the other sectors, particularly mines and minerals and forest products. Lower income from mines and minerals was attributable largely to lower

## Buy-out at Brocks unit

Brocks Group, Contracts have been signed by a joint venture of the Brocks Group of Companies for the sale of the Poole-based marine business, Seafarer Navigation International to Messrs, R. M. Spink and M. J. Sykes, two members of the management team, together with Mr C. L. Minor. Seafarer plans to consolidate and expand its leading position in marine electronics.

Single Group's subsidiary, Norman's (Budeigh) has completed a contract to acquire the lease and fittings of a 30,000 square foot cash and carry warehouse in Farnborough Road, Basingstoke. The purchase price of £275,000. In addition, stock is to be purchased at valuation as at February 8. The search for further new sites continues.

Change Wares, Messrs J. R. Dutton and R. J. Stockwell have transferred their total shareholding in the company to 170,000 ordinary shares and 117,000 ordinary shares respectively, to Barclays Nominees (London) under an agreement with Barclays Bank. Mr R. J. Stockwell has resigned as a director of Change Wares and will in future concentrate exclusively upon his activities as an executive director of H. Stockwell, the principle subsidiary of Change Wares. J. R. Dutton have recently been extended.

Directors of Stewart Naim Group say that agreement in principle has been reached for Stewart Naim to purchase certain overseas properties. The acquisitions will be satisfied by the issue of new ordinary shares of Stewart Naim.

This acquisition will be subject to shareholders' approval which will be sought at extraordinary general meeting to be convened in due course. Information will be shortly sent to shareholders with full details. It is intended that the new group will seek re-introduction to the Official List of the Stock Exchange as soon as practicable.

In a £1.6m deal arranged with financial backing from the Charterhouse Group, FSP (Filtration & Separation Products) the Sussex-based industrial filtration company has merged with Engineering Developments of Farnborough, which makes shrinkwrapping and other packaging machinery. The new group will have a turnover of about £4m produced in its extensive design and manufacturing facilities at Farnborough, Billinghurst, Barnstable and Congleton.

Societe Internationale Pirelli, the Swiss holding company for many of the international interests of the Pirelli group, said sales of the firms under its management rose to 4,500m Swiss francs in 1981 from 4,200m francs in 1980, despite a slight decline in volume terms.

It said business was affected by the international recession, and high interest rates, and said the outlook for 1982 would seem to be more favourable.

Volume sales declined due to a worldwide slowdown in the tyre business, but prospects for 1982 are more favourable, the company said.

The company, which groups Pirelli's foreign participations, gave no earnings forecasts in the year to June 30, 1981, the holding company reported net profit of 31.2m francs compared with 27.7m the previous year.

Kaiser Steel made a loss of \$513.79m in the last quarter, against a net income of \$73.873m. The year ago quarter includes income from discontinued international shipping operations of \$97,000 and a gain of \$2.78m from the disposal of discontinued operations.

Total revenues were \$227.6m against \$261.01m.

Kaiser's losses were after an unusual after-tax charge of \$529m for the scheduled phase-out of primary steelmaking

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Div	Pay	Year
Sam Heath (T)	2,071.82	0.36(0.18)	—	—	(19.0)
Home Farm (T)	7,747.11	0.45(0.38)	4.99(4.13)	14/5	(3.9)
Meat Trade (T)	3,933.85	0.131(0.22)	2.42(4.04)	25/3	(7.67)
Murray Western (T)	—	3.33(3.11)	2.55(2.35)	5/4	2.8(2.3)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To calculate gross multiply the net dividend by 1.425. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=Loss b=Adjusted.

## Legal Appointments also on page 21

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## INTERNATIONAL



## JAPAN

Toshiba Corporation is planning a ¥20,000m (£445m) factory for development of 1.5 megabit RAM super microchips capable of storing 15 times as much information as the 256k memory chips in production today.

A Toshiba spokesman said production of microchips for test purposes may start this summer.

● Nippon Light Metal Co., which is 50 per cent owned by Alcan Aluminium Ltd, plans to cut its workforce of 6,800 by 700,000 (222,700) for the year ending next March 31.

## W GERMANY

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor has urged substantial government financial support for the impending merger of Krupp Stahl and Esch Hoesch Werke.

● West German wholesale turnover fell by a real 5.9 per cent in the first nine months of 1981 against the same period in 1980.

## S AFRICA

South Africa's imports totalled R18,400m in 1981, up from R14,400m the previous year, according to preliminary figures released by the commissioner of Customs and Excise. Exports fell from R19,900m to R18,100m. Figures for sales of diamonds will be adjusted later to reflect receipts instead of shipment values.

● The state-owned Electricity Commission of South Africa has negotiated a \$250m seven-year loan from the international banks for a power plant at Matimba in the Transvaal.

## FRANCE

Technip, the French industrial plant design and construction company, has awarded a contract believed to worth more than £500m (£45m). The Algerian state-owned Chemical Industries Corporation to set up a flat glass plant at Jijel, on the Mediterranean coast.

## GHANA

Ghanaians have begun handing in to banks their 50-cent notes, which will cease to be legal tender from Friday. The banks estimated that about 30 million of the notes are in circulation.

The notes, which are the largest denomination in the national currency, were ordered to be surrendered by the ruling Provisional National Defence Council to try to cut an inflated domestic money supply and curb price rises.

## BOLIVIA

Bolivian tin miners were beginning a 48-hour strike yesterday in protest against the government's economic package which includes a 76 per cent devaluation of the peso and steep rises in the price of energy.

## CAPITAL MARKETS

Crown Zellerbach floating 75m francs worth of 7 1/2 per cent maximum five-year notes on the Swiss capital market for private placement. The issue price was set at par by lead manager Union Bank of Switzerland.

Sumitomo Electric Industries will offer \$50m in 15-year convertible Eurobonds on March 9. The bonds will be issued at par, but the coupon rate has not been set yet, the company said. The issue will be managed by J.P. Morgan & Co. in New York and Europe and Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment.

Toray Industries has set the conversion price for its February 4 issue of \$50m in convertible Eurobonds at 452 yen, the company said.

MEAT COMMISSION: Average cattle prices for 1981: 1981 average, 94.03 c. (US cents per lb.).

WHEAT: The London daily price of wheat, price was 32.10 lower at 175.00-175.50. 1981 average, 175.00-175.50. 1980 average, 175.00-175.50. 1979 average, 175.00-175.50. 1978 average, 175.00-175.50. 1977 average, 175.00-175.50. 1976 average, 175.00-175.50. 1975 average, 175.00-175.50. 1974 average, 175.00-175.50. 1973 average, 175.00-175.50. 1972 average, 175.00-175.50. 1971 average, 175.00-175.50. 1970 average, 175.00-175.50. 1969 average, 175.00-175.50. 1968 average, 175.00-175.50. 1967 average, 175.00-175.50. 1966 average, 175.00-175.50. 1965 average, 175.00-175.50. 1964 average, 175.00-175.50. 1963 average, 175.00-175.50. 1962 average, 175.00-175.50. 1961 average, 175.00-175.50. 1960 average, 175.00-175.50. 1959 average, 175.00-175.50. 1958 average, 175.00-175.50. 1957 average, 175.00-175.50. 1956 average, 175.00-175.50. 1955 average, 175.00-175.50. 1954 average, 175.00-175.50. 1953 average, 175.00-175.50. 1952 average, 175.00-175.50. 1951 average, 175.00-175.50. 1950 average, 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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

A pilot to weather the calm

Finance directors are book-keeping bores in good times but the only chaps who count (and who can count) in bad ones. That is the conventional wisdom; but not it seems at Grattan, the Bradford mail order outfit, now making Mr Peter Lomas, aged 43, of John Collier, its new money box man. But what's this? Grattan has done without a finance director for nearly two years, and the last resigned amid a catalogue of woe. Grattan saw profits vanishing and borrowings mounting. It quarrelled with its auditors, suffered a going over by McKinsey, the management consultants, and failed to find someone to merge with. But Grattan has done without a finance director, until now. Why bother now that the group is again the darling of the City? Grattan says that it did not need a finance director to tell them to cut back, and everyone knows that shrinking businesses absorb less money than expanding ones. Now it is time for all the directors to lift their eyes from mundane matters to sublime thoughts about what Grattan does next. This is the young Mr Lomas will be expected to contribute. Meanwhile, Mr Michael Pickard, chairman, a survivor of many a City dust-up can afford to laugh at his critics just as heartily as his one-time associate, Mr Robert M. Peggan and British Printing.

Chauffeurs are back in Britain

Philip Poulton, the managing director of Britain's largest chauffeur-driven car hire firm is to get rid of the company's fleet of German and American cars and replace them with BL's Daimler Jaguars. Poulton founded Camlot Cars Couriers in 1960 and in 1973 sold it to Savoy Hotel Ltd. About a third of the Camlot fleet of 60 is made of German-made Ford Granada, VW's and even the odd American Lincoln Continental. He said yesterday that he was buying BL not because he had been able to screw a good price out of them, but because the back-up on new and even second-hand Jags was now "tremendous" and because he wanted to keep British workers in work.



A Crombie for Lewis

Illingworth Morris, famous for Crombie coats and Papal vestments, could have a new controlling shareholder within two months. Out go the flamboyant and the Hollywood chat show hostess Mrs Pamela Mason, and in (maybe) comes dapper Mr Alan Lewis, aged 43, whose socks match his claret tie. With 19 per cent of Illingworth already under his weight-trained belt, he normally does two hours a day in the gym — Mr Lewis hopes that the remaining Illingworth shares formerly looked after by Mrs Mason will go to him in eight weeks.

Most of his empire, which includes an Isle of Man bank, a distribution company for Bechams and interests in Spain, are now private. Illingworth just needs a little financial management. They've got some good people there", he says.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Simon Mounsey has been appointed managing director of Hays Business Services Limited, subsidiary of Hays Group. Mr Kenneth J. Walker and J. W. Ross are to be appointed directors of Provincial Insurance Company and also of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Provincial Life Assurance Company with effect from March. Sir David Roche has resigned as chairman of Carlton Real Estates but will continue as a member of the board as financial director. Mr Leo Christlun Toppin, a director, has been appointed chairman in his place. Mr Neil M. Foster has been appointed group managing director of The British & Commonwealth Shipping Company and Mr Geoffrey A. Adkin has been appointed group finance director with effect from March 1.

LAKER: Kevin Page assesses the airline's assets and the chances of selling them

What Sir Freddie has to sell

It is ironic that the great free marketeer, Sir Freddie Laker, has left the Receiver, Mr Bill Mackey, without much of a market to survey the bankrupt airline's assets. The second-hand market for aircraft is virtually moribund, with 140 wide-bodied jets on offer, so Mr Mackey faces the almost impossible task of attempting to pay off Laker's bank creditors, who are owed £210m, by selling the fleet of DC 10s and A 300 airbuses.

However, Mr Mackey's immediate priority is to sell Laker's two holiday companies, Arrowsmith, which is based in Liverpool with an office in Manchester, and Laker Air Holidays, based at Gatwick. The deadline for a sale is tonight, and has been set by Mr Mackey because holidaymakers are already transferring bookings to other tour companies.

Laker Air Holidays has around 150,000 bookings for 1982 with Arrowsmith attracting almost the same amount of customers. Last year, both companies achieved a pre-tax profit of roughly £10 per holiday. So assuming a similar performance in 1982 and a quick sale, Laker's profits from holidays alone would be £25m each a year and little asset potential since most of the travel shops appear to be held on short leases.

However it is the aircraft which form the bulk of on

Greene. Last year Eastern Airlines, the large US trunk carrier, bought two A 300s for £161.1m each. But the Receiver might be able to do rather better than Eastern since the Airbus deal was conducted at a preferential rate of interest. Through intra-subsidies, Sir Freddie effectively paid a rate of only 10.2 per cent instead of a market rate of around 15 per cent. This subsidy cost the British taxpayer some £3m. If this financing deal could be passed on to a buyer for the three airbuses, then Mr Mackey might be able to ask and receive say £20m each.



Sir Freddie Laker: his company owned 14 aeroplanes with few buyers in prospect. Weekend hopes that Orion Bank would tie up a deal for the whole airline have collapsed.

Neither applies in Laker's case, although doubtless there are a few airlines which would like to pick up surplus DC10s and take on the national carriers on transatlantic routes despite the £32.6m losses incurred by International Air Travel Association members in 1981. Until air traffic growth improves and the fare structure sorts itself out, there is likely to be a glut of wide-bodied jets. Mr Mackey may be forced into selling off individual aircraft at bargain prices, although he would doubtless prefer a package deal.

The rest of Laker's assets and liabilities are hidden from the public gaze as befits a privately-owned company. Laker Airways is registered in Jersey. Sir Freddie controls 90 per cent of the shares and one of his former wives owns the remaining 10 per cent.

The last published accounts to March 1980 showed capital plus reserves of £23m, with most of the reserves consisting of unrealised exchange gain profits. The decline of Sterling will have wiped out most of Laker's reserves, leaving shareholders funds of just £6m, a griffin when set against bank debt of £210m. All depends upon Mr Mackey's skill with second-hand aircraft in a moribund market. Still, he has experience of a sort as Receiver of Air Industries, the model aircraft firm.

it acquired a formidable reputation as an imaginative and innovative bank in the international capital markets. By the late 1970s the consortium banking concept began to decay as the international ambitions of the big commercial banks grew and increasingly they found themselves in conflict with their consortium partners.

One by one many of the other leading consortium banks were bought out by a single partner. Sometime during 1978 Mr David Montagu, Orion's founding chairman, reached a conclusion and attempted to persuade NatWest to buy out the other partners and merge it with NatWest's merchant banking subsidiary County Bank.

But as a bank that has operated exclusively on the international stage for over a decade, Orion was set up in 1970 by six of the world's leading banks: National Westminster, Bank of Canada, Credit Lyonnais, Mitsubishi and Westdeutsche Bank.

With that sort of pedigree, or quickly became one of the more successful consortium banks but by its own efforts

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LAKER: Ronald Pullen on a rescue bid

Orion Bank fails the test

Orion Royal Bank could not have wished for a better stage from which to declaim its banking skills than Laker Airways. All the sympathetic ballyhoo that has developed Laker over the weekend, Orion would have stood to gain immeasurable kudos in the banking world if it could have actually done the impossible and put together a group of investors to rescue the airline.

There is just as likely to be success in failure too, since Orion has already gained more publicity than half a dozen low profile merger deals in taking the initiative where the cream of the British banking system has given up.

Although there is some vested interest in that Orion's parent, the Royal Bank of Canada, is one of Laker's many creditors, the idea for a full-blown rescue package seems to have sprung up in

the bank's growing mergers and acquisitions department headed by vice-chairman Christopher Chataway.

Several leading bankers were openly sceptical yesterday about Orion's chances of success. That view also appeared to be shared by the receiver Mr Bill Mackey who said that he found it "astonishing that in an assignment which has engaged some of the finest financial brains in the banking industry, these people (Orion) have been able to discover a key to solve the problem." And in the event they proved right with Orion throwing in the towel late yesterday.

In fact Orion is only playing the classic role of the merchant bank, using its wits to spot a deal where everyone else has failed. That is how the merchant banks have been playing their trade for the past 250 years.

There is no easy explanation why it should be a newcomer like Orion and not one of the established accepting houses that should have popped up in the first place. It could be that several other financial institutions could have run into conflict of interest: they may be involved elsewhere in the airline industry, advising British Caledonian, say, or already involved in the privatisation plans for British Airways.

Whitehall looks for a bargain

Whatever else may be in the offing for 1984, huge Big Brother-style advertising campaigns are on the way out. Far from increasing the amount it spends persuading the public to wear seat belts, insulate the loft or buy a TV licence, the Government is actually cutting its advertising expenditure substantially.

In fact, though advertising agencies work far harder for their money. This year the Central Office of Information, which acts as the advertising and marketing arm of the Government for all but a few campaigns, is spending £21m on advertising. Seven years ago it spent £15m, well over twice as much in real terms.

From being one of the largest advertisers in the country, the COI is now the outstep by many large marketing companies and all the signs are that its spending will be pegged in years to come, leaving it lagging even more far behind its competitors.

Partly this is a result of the economic climate. Much of the COI's advertising budget traditionally goes into recruitment for the armed forces, the police, nurses and so on.

With three million unemployed it does not have to spend so much to attract applicants, and services recruitment advertising has been halved in recent years. However, it is also specific Government policy to spend much less than before.

While this is worrying in itself for the 14 leading advertising agencies who work in COI business, they are also having to face up to cutbacks in their own remuneration. From April this year most of them will find themselves working for less than the traditional 15 per cent commission on their Government business as the COI, for the second time in three years, changes the terms on which it does its business.

"COI business is barely profitable these days", says a director of one of the country's largest agencies. "A lot of agencies are keeping at cost simply because it's good to have on the books."



WATCH OUT, TV DETECTOR VANS ARE IN THIS AREA.

GET A LICENCE BEFORE YOU GET A FINE OF UP TO £200.

Government campaigns are good for business but are barely profitable, says the director of a top agency.

spending has gone through the roof", says another. "Several of the accounts are particularly susceptible to political whim and it's very hard for an agency to plan from year to year when the spending can be so variable."

In fact, though advertising expenditure on individual accounts may fluctuate, the COI's overall ad budget has remained remarkably steady for the past three years.

And though inflation means it goes less far, the COI believes that changes in administration in recent years and better buying of media time and space mean that it has actually saved several million pounds for the taxpayer.

"Our objective is to spend as little as can be consistent with getting good work", says John Bessant, the COI's director of advertising. "We don't insist that an agency works unprofitably, but if an agency wants to work unprofitably that's up to them."

There is no shortage of agencies willing to work for the COI, despite the reduction in income from Government business. This week three agencies — Doyle Dane Bernbach, Walker Thompson and TBWA — are being invited to make presentations for the Department of Health's nursing recruitment and blood donors' accounts, which together have an advertising budget of £750,000 a year.

Of the three, two already work for the COI. Doyle

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING: GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

By Torin Douglas

Dane currently handles the business that is being reviewed, which means it has considerably more at stake than the others.

Bessant emphasizes that the reason for the presentation is not dissatisfaction with Doyle Dane's work but simply the fact that the agency has had the accounts for ten years without having to compete for them. It also handles three other COI accounts which are not at risk this time.

JWT also has COI business — the RAF officer recruitment — but it would obviously like more, particularly after the much-publicized departure of the Guinness account last month.

The third agency is a newcomer to the COI, TBWA, one of the brighter young agencies in London, which won awards all over the world last year for its animated Lego commercial.

For such an agency it is a major coup to have got this far, since every agency large enough to handle accounts of £1m or more is anxious to get its hands on COI business.

This is not simply because a Government contract repre-

sents a substantial seal of approval, which is useful in attracting other clients; more COI accounts are also attractive because they tend to offer greater scope for dramatic creative work.

Originally set up during the war to advise on propaganda, the ACA is a committee of businessmen, all of whom have been involved at one time or another on the marketing side of major companies. It is currently chaired by Gerry Draper, director of commercial operations for British Airways, and other companies represented include Bechams, Thames Television, Birds Eye, Walls and The Observer.

The job of the committee is to advise on the appointment of Government advertising agencies and to ensure that Government advertising is efficiently administered.

During the three years Draper has chaired the committee, the number of Government agencies has been cut from 28 to 18.

"That was my primary objective", he says. "We have now greater coordination of accounts and because each agency has more business it means that they can buy the media more cheaply and that we can get better terms from the agencies."

The "better terms" the COI has wrung from agencies have been the cause of much dispute. Two years ago, after the Office of Fair Trading's ruling that the 15 per cent

agency commission system was not in the public interest, the COI scrapped its commission payments and introduced a system whereby it would pay the production costs of a campaign, plus 25 per cent as a profit margin, up to a ceiling of 15 per cent of the agency's COI billings.

There was an immediate outcry from agencies who opposed the scheme, partly because they thought their income would be reduced and partly because auditors would be brought in to check agencies' costs.

The new system was to be subject to review and, though agencies fairly quickly accepted it, despite their initial opposition, Draper has revealed this week that the "cost-plus system" will be scrapped from April. This does not mean any financial respite for agencies, however, probably the reverse since each agency will now have to negotiate its own terms individually with the COI.

There is a major difference between a COI campaign and a product campaign, however. If an agency does a good job in selling a product, the chances are it will get a bigger budget the next year. If an agency does a good job for the COI and persuades enough people to join up or wear a seat-belt, there is a good chance that the COI will decide the campaign is not needed the following year.

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

\* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 12% p.a. over 250,000 15% p.a.

Business Editor

Bowing to New York

Financial markets spent most of yesterday digesting the American budget proposal for the 1983 fiscal year and reassessing the present United States monetary situation. In terms of immediate market movements there was nothing too dramatic. But the mood on the whole was one of caution. American bonds slipped by up to a point in early trading and in London gilt, already slightly easier, tended to follow them down.

Sterling, however, remained firm enough in terms of its index against a basket of currencies, and that will doubtless help to sustain hopes that British interest rates could yet fall another notch before too long — barring, of course, a calamitous rise in rates on the other side of the Atlantic.

Meanwhile, the market obsession with the weekly American money supply figures has forced our own authorities to modify their tactics for issuing new tranches of gold edged stock. The problem that has arisen is quite simply that pricing a new stock for the traditional Friday afternoon announcement has been rendered too risky an exercise, coming as it does only hours before news of the United States money supply numbers.

A conventional offer put out on a Monday instead of a Friday is considered no answer either. That would push application day forward to the following Friday when the market would presumably be in suspense awaiting the next set of American figures.

The stop-gap solution, therefore, is to announce on a Monday a stock that goes on tap immediately. In this case the stock is a further £750m tranche of Exchequer 13% per cent on the basis of mid-afternoon market price — a price that was in fact to fall in late trading.

While the Bank's action is probably sensible in the circumstances (and given that it insists on attaching its own pricing to each conventional issue), this is another comfortable reminder of just how dependent London has become on everything that happens in New York.

Laker

A moral

Whatever Orion Bank and other banks may do to pick up the pieces at Laker, the banks have come in for a fair bit of criticism over the airline's collapse. It is argued that either they should never have lent so much money to Laker in the first place, or, having done so, they should somehow have seen the company through its recent crisis.

The first part of that criticism is more valid than the second. Sad it is to see Laker go under, but the banks have every right to decline to make fresh funds available on the basis of the evidence available to them. Laker had run into serious problems and there appeared to be no reasonable prospect of putting them right.

What is deemed to constitute a reasonable prospect now, of course, vary from one banker to the next. Conceivably, too, the judgment of some bankers may have been coloured by the thought that taking the risk of keeping Laker in business as prolonging the bloodbath on the transatlantic routes might ultimately have led to even more serious damage to their overall airline portfolios.

But if it was the case that the colouring would have stemmed from straight commercial, rather than national or political considerations.

At the end of the day, though, the heart of the matter is that Laker proved unable to justify refinancing on present performance or future prospects. And the group therefore, paid the penalty for having an

inadequate safety margin to see it through a period of recession, violent currency volatility and cut-throat competition from the big boys — some, of course, heavily state-subsidized.

But if the banks can defend effectively pulling the rug, can they answer the criticism that they were less than wise in their original lending, and generally remiss in permitting the company to become so heavily over-gear?

Here, of course, one talks with the benefit of hindsight. Even so, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the banks showed a considerable lack of banking prudence.

What strikes one most about the whole affair from a financial viewpoint was the obvious reluctance of Laker to introduce additional outside equity into the company, or of the banks to insist on it.

By any standards the company was extraordinarily highly geared, not least when one remembers the extent to which the capital base was built up on unrealised foreign exchange gains.

On the basis of the immense public support being shown for the post-collapse Laker, one would think that there should have been no lack of small investor enthusiasm for a Laker flotation when the Skytrain operation was enjoying better times.

Indeed, that would really have given far more substance to Sir Freddie's aspiration of Laker being the airline of the people.

But there was no flotation, nor any other form of risk-capital injection from outside. And it is probably worth asking whether any bank would really have fancied its chances of bringing Laker successfully to market given its balance sheet and commitments. But if that is the case, then there is clearly a moral here for bankers.

Prices Outlook fair

At face value, the 1 per cent rise in wholesale prices during January appears somewhat disappointing, reversing a steady downward trend. The latest increase is twice the rise posted in December. However, some bunching of price increases regularly occurs in the first month of the year, and the rise is actually a good deal less than some City analysts were predicting. Another good sign is that the year-on-year rate has turned down for the first time since last summer. It now stands at 11 per cent after peaking in December at 11 1/4 per cent. There now seems to be a good chance that the year-on-year rate will move down over the next few months, possibly to the 9 per cent level reached last summer, before the fall in the pound sent a new wave of price increases rippling through the economy.

A generally optimistic picture is reinforced by the trend in industry's material and fuel costs. These input prices rose much more in January than had been expected. The increase of 0.8 per cent compares with an annual rise of 1.2 per cent in December and a small fall in November. The explanation appears to be a jump in milk and electricity costs. The rise looks rather exceptional. It did not interrupt the downward trend in the year-on-year figure.

This is now down to 13 1/4 per cent, after peaking in the autumn at over 18 per cent. With oil prices sliding and commodity prices still depressed by the world recession, the outlook for industry's fuel and materials costs looks promising. The one factor that could upset the position is the fragility of the exchange rate. A continuing rise in US interest rates could still put renewed pressure on the pound.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovel Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E	Fully Paid
123	100	ABN Hides 10% CULS	122	+1	10.0	8.2	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
51	33	Armstrong & Rhodes	44	—	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3
205	187	Bardon Hill	204	—	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1
104	77	Deborah Services	77	—	6.0	7.8	3.8	7.2
130	97	Frank Horsell	130	+1	6.4	4.9	11.2	24.1
80	39	Frederick Parker	80	+2	1.7	2.1	34.8	—
78	46	George Blair	50	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	96	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
105	100	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	94	—	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
138	108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
334	250	Robert Jenkins	252	—	31.3	12.4	3.5	8.9
59	51	Scruttons "A"	56	—	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0
212	164	Torday & Carlisle	164	—	10.7	6.5	5.3	9.8
15	10	Twinklford Ord	13	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinklford 15% ULS	76	—	15.0	19.7	—	—
44	27	Unilever Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
103	75	Walter Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7
263	212	W. S. Yeates	220	+1	13.1	6.0	4.2	8.5

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

**A SMALL INDUCEMENT**  
**TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE A BIG DISCOVERY.**

Until now, low-tar cigarettes have not only lacked taste, they've also lacked a certain je ne sais quoi.

And that's despite all the promises to the contrary.

y've also lacked a certain je ne sais quoi.  
 And that's despite all the  
 mises to the  
 trary

**FREE  
 PACK!**

**FOR EVERY 10 IN-PACK COUPONS.**

So convincing  
 you that du Maurier low tar

So convincing  
you that du Maurier low tar  
is the cigarette you've been waiting for is  
so easy.

Discover du Maurier

which only leaves us one option: To make you a special introductory double offer you'll find difficult to refuse.

3p off your next pack. Or, in exchange for 10 in-pack coupons, a completely free pack.

Is that a tempting enough offer to give  
du Maurier low tar a try?

We hope it is. Because for the very first time you'll discover a low tar cigarette that really does have more than mere taste.

Now isn't that a discovery worth making?

## Discover du Maurier.



# Discover Low Tar.

**LOW TAR** Manufacturer's estimate

**DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:  
THINK ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS BEFORE SMOKING.**

ditions at Northop in Clwyd yesterday.



## Legal Appointments

also on page 12

### CITY OF LONDON COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL SOLICITORS

Herbert Smith & Co. have vacancies in their Company and Commercial Department for young Solicitors, preferably with qualified experience, to undertake a wide variety of interesting and demanding work, much of it involving an international element with the possibility of travel. Successful applicants will have excellent opportunities for advancement. Remuneration will be at rates appropriate to age and experience.

Applications with full curriculum vitae should be made to: The Personnel Manager, Herbert Smith & Co., Watling House, 35-37 Cannon Street, London EC4M 5SD.

## Solicitor Pensions

This medium-sized City firm is seeking a Solicitor aged around 30, to assist with its established and growing pension practice. The person appointed will work closely with the senior Partner and also undertake a range of commercial work. Candidates must have a strong background in pension schemes as well as the ability and personality to deal confidently with clients. Career prospects within the firm are excellent and early promotion to partnership status can be expected.

Write for an application form or send brief CV to the address below, quoting ref: PFS17903/11 on both letter and envelope, and advising us of any other applications you have made to PA Personnel Services within the last twelve months. No details are divulged to clients without prior permission. Initial interviews will be conducted by PA Consultants.

### PA Personnel Services

Hyde Park House, 64a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE  
Tel: 01-235 4660 Telex 27974



A member of PA International

## SOLICITOR PENSION FUND WORK

Leading City Solicitors have a vacancy in their Pension Department for a competent and experienced Solicitor, who must have first class knowledge of all aspects of pension work and be able to work without supervision. Good salary and excellent working conditions.

Written applications giving full career details should be addressed to: —

Box No. 1426 G The Times

### COMPETITION LAW Solicitor

We are expanding our EEC and European practice and are looking for a solicitor with 1-2 years post admission experience in the company commercial field with emphasis on UK and EEC Competition Law. The preferred applicant will have a good degree, sound working knowledge of French and/or German and be prepared to liaise with our Brussels office.

There is a close working relationship among the lawyers in the firm and career prospects are good.

Please write with full details to the Partnership Secretary

## McKenna & Co

INVERNESS HOUSE, 1 ALDWICH, LONDON, WC2R 0HF

## LEGAL ADVISOR

Up to £12,000 per annum

Brentwood, Essex

Ford Credit is one of the leading finance companies in the United Kingdom. We provide a wide range of credit facilities to both corporate and retail customers. We now plan to expand our small, professional legal team by the appointment of an additional qualified lawyer. You are likely to be under 30 with broadly based experience including some commercial conveyancing. A knowledge of consumer credit and banking would be most advantageous. This is a key appointment and calls for a competent,

committed person seeking a challenging and responsible career with good future prospects. The rewards are excellent—a salary up to £12,000 per annum depending upon experience. Attractive car plans and other benefits associated with a senior appointment in a major company. Please write with a comprehensive cv to: Roger G. Abrahams, Company Solicitor, Ford Motor Credit Company Limited, Regent House, 1 Hubert Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4QL.



## Salerooms and Antiques

### Sotheby's

FOUNDED 1744

New Bond Street  
Sotheby's Park Lane, London W1A 2AA  
Tel: (01) 493 8080

Wednesday 10th February at 11 am  
TOPOGRAPHICAL PAINTINGS,  
WATERCOLOURS, DRAWINGS, PRINTS AND  
SCULPTURE Cat. (113 illus.) £1.50

Friday 12th February at 11 am  
ENGLISH FURNITURE Cat. (15 illus.) £1.50

Tuesday 16th February at 10.30 am  
ENGLISH POTTERY AND PORCELAIN  
Cat. (41 illus.) £1.50

Tuesday 16th February at 11 am and 2.30 pm  
MODERN FIREARMS, SPORTING GUNS AND  
FISHING TACKLE Cat. (24 illus.) £2.50

Conduit Street  
Sotheby's Park Lane, 26 Conduit  
Street, London W1R 9TB Tel: (01) 493 8080

Thursday 11th February at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm  
18th, 19th and 20th CENTURY ART  
AND EUROPEAN PAINTINGS, WATERCOLOURS  
AND DRAWINGS, DECORATIVE, BRITISH,  
MODERN AND JAPANESE PRINTS AND OLD  
MASTER PAINTINGS

Bloomfield Place  
Sotheby's Park Lane, Bloomfield Place,  
New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA  
Tel: (01) 493 8080

Tuesday 9th February at 11 am and 2.30 pm  
PRINTED BOOKS INCLUDING AN  
EXTENSIVE SELECTION OF PRINTED  
EPHEMERA Cat. £1.50

Thursday 11th February at 10.30 am  
PRINTED BOOKS Cat. 50p

Thursday 11th February at 10.30 am  
JEWELS Cat. (16 illus.) £2

Monday 15th February at 11 am  
VALUABLE PRINTED BOOKS RELATING TO  
SCIENCE AND MEDICINE Cat. £2.50

Belgravia  
Sotheby's Belgravia, 19 Motcomb Street,  
London SW1X 8LS Tel: (01) 235 4311

Wednesday 10th February at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm  
CHILDREN'S GAMES, TOYLANDS, TOYS,  
AUTOMATA, DOLLS' HOUSES, DOLLS AND  
RELATED MATERIAL Cat. (66 illus.) £4

Thursday 11th February at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm  
ORIENTAL CERAMICS, WORKS OF ART AND  
FURNITURE Cat. (80 illus.) £2

Tuesday 16th February at 11 am  
VICTORIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND  
WATERCOLOURS Cat. (83 illus.) £1.50

Torquay, Devon  
Sotheby's Torquay Tel: (0803) 26277

Wednesday 17th February at 10.30 am  
18th, 19th and 20th CENTURY BRITISH AND  
CONTINENTAL PAINTINGS, WATERCOLOURS, DRAWINGS,  
MINIATURES AND PRINTS Cat. £3

St. Moritz  
The Kulm Hotel  
Tel: (082) 21151

Thursday 18th February at 5 pm and following two days  
at 4 pm and 7 pm  
FINE JEWELS Cat. £14.50

Catalogues may be purchased at our salerooms or by post  
from the Catalogue Department, Sotheby's Park Lane, 26  
Conduit Street, London W1R 9TB. Tel: (01) 493 8080

The Voge/Sotheby's Cecil Beaton Award  
1982: this award is offered each year for  
outstanding talent in fashion and portrait  
photography and illustration. It was inaugurated  
by Cecil Beaton, who contributed so much to  
the visual arts, and this year is supported by  
Sotheby's, who are the custodians of Beaton's  
photographic archive. The first prize is £1,000,  
and the possibility of work being published in  
Vogue. Further information is available from  
Margaret Wagstaff at Sotheby's Belgravia: (01)  
235 4311, or in February Vogue.

DAVID BLACK  
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Tel: 01-727 2566

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### NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS REQUIRES FOR CITIZENS ADVICE NOTES SERVICE (CANS) LEGAL EDITOR

£9,232-£11,265 + £1,087 London Weighting

This loose leaf digest of British Social Legislation requires a Legal Editor to form part of its editorial team. The successful applicant will be responsible for ensuring the accuracy and balance of the legal content in the digest. In addition as part of the editorial team she/he will also assist in the compilation of the digest. Post requires a legal qualification in law and extensive post qualification experience. An ability to summarise complex legislation in clear concise language is also required. 5 weeks annual leave, superannuation scheme, subsidised dining room.

Further details from the Personnel Officer,  
NCVO, 26 Bedford Sq., London WC1B 3HU.  
Tel. 01-636 4066. Closing date 2nd March '82.  
NCVO is an equal opportunity employer.

### ROWE & MAW COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL SOLICITOR

We have an immediate vacancy for an able and experienced Company and Commercial Solicitor to assist with our growing range of responsible and exacting work.

Candidates should have a minimum of 2 years' qualifications with a good firm, having gained general experience in company and commercial matters including work for public companies.

Applications accompanied by a full curriculum vitae, which will be treated in confidence, should be addressed to:

The Senior Partner, Rowe & Maw, 15 Devereux Court, Essex St., London, WC2R 3JX.

### ASSISTANT COMPANY SECRETARY FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Interesting and demanding position for qualified solicitor. Preferred background 3-5 years' experience of commercial and corporate matters. West End location. Post available to man or woman. Salary circa £8,500 + benefits.

Please reply to Box 1281 G, The Times

### LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

#### Lee Bolton & Lee

An old Established  
Westminster firm of  
Solicitors are seeking a

#### LITIGATION SOLICITOR

To assume full responsibility for all litigation work in the firm's practice. The successful candidate will be required to be fully conversant with all aspects of litigation. A confident and energetic personality with the ability to motivate staff and work as a team is essential. Partnership prospects within the firm are excellent.

Please write with full CV to:  
The Partnership Secretary  
(Ref 12)  
LEE BOLTON & LEE  
1 The Sanctuary,  
London SW1P 3JT

#### HOLMAN FENWICK AND WILLAN

require an experienced  
COST DRAUGHTSMAN  
to deal with shipping, finance,  
company and other non-  
contingent costs.

The successful candidate will be required to be fully conversant with all aspects of solicitors' costs. An excellent salary is envisaged for the right person. This position is open to both male and female applicants.

Write to: Holman Fenwick and Willan, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3AL quoting reference BDR.

#### PROBATE SUSSEX COAST

UNADMITTED PROBATE MANAGER, aged 35 to 45 wanted for friendly, thriving 9-partner firm in East Sussex. Car provided. Write or phone Gaby Hardwick & Co., 2 Eversley Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex (0424 213948).

#### COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCER

of partnership calibre required by well established firm of solicitors.

Apply with C.V. Box No. 1381 G, The Times.

#### EURO BOND PROSPECTUS

Writer with legal training required for Swiss bank in London. 26-28 years. £12,500 + negotiable. Telephone West Alexander Avenue, London (0424 213948).

#### LITIGATION SOLICITOR, 30 years

qualified, aged 35-45, with 10 years' experience in litigation work. Able to form partnership prospects. Salary £12,500 + negotiable. Write to: Mr. M. J. C. Ashworth, 20, St. James's Place, London SW1A 1NR.

#### INTERNATIONAL Environmental Law Centre

requires a Solicitor with a degree in Law and a minimum of 3 years' experience in environmental law. Knowledge of French and English. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Write to: Environmental Law Centre, 10, St. James's Place, London SW1A 1NR.

#### LITIGATION SOLICITOR, who are

a medium sized firm and seek a solicitor with experience for litigation and conveyancing. Write with C.V. to: Mr. M. J. C. Ashworth, 20, St. James's Place, London SW1A 1NR.

#### PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION  
Charity - Lazard Benetton Fund  
Notice to make a SCHEME for this  
charity. The Charity Commission  
may be obtained from them (ref: 20714-A-1) at 1, Ryder Street,  
London SW1A 1NR. Charities  
and associations may be sent to  
them within one month from today.

#### EDUCATIONAL

CHEMISTRY GRADUATE  
London Tutorial School seeks  
enthusiastic graduate to run  
seminars in "A" level chemistry.  
Start: March. Telephone:  
01-684 9039 for application.

## Phillips

Tuesday, 9 February, 11 a.m.  
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART

Tuesday, 9 February, 1.30 p.m.  
ANTIQUE AND MODERN JEWELLERY

Wednesday, 10 February, 11 a.m.  
CHINESE AND JAPANESE CERAMICS AND  
WORKS OF ART

Wednesday, 10 February, 12 noon  
RAILWAYS, RAILWAYANA, ENGINES,  
MODELS, TOYS AND DIECASTS

Viewing: Day prior 5 a.m.-4.30 p.m. and  
morning of sale until 11 a.m.  
Illustrated catalogue £1 by post

Thursday, 11 February, 11 a.m.  
DECORATIVE ARTS CERAMICS  
Illustrated catalogue £1.75 by post

Friday, 12 February, 11 a.m.  
SILVER AND PLATE

Please note: Due to current industrial dispute,  
this sale will be on view for 3 days prior, and the  
Department will be pleased to report condition  
of lots and accept telephone bids.  
Illustrated catalogue 75p by post.

Monday, 15 February, 11 a.m.  
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND OBJECTS

Monday, 15 February, 11 a.m.  
WATERCOLOURS AND DRAWINGS

Monday, 15 February, 2 p.m.  
OIL PAINTINGS

Tuesday, 16 February, 11 a.m.  
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART  
followed by Jewellery and Metalware at 12 noon

Wednesday, 17 February, 11 a.m.  
GOOD ENGLISH AND  
CONTINENTAL CERAMICS  
AND GLASS

An early Bow white-glazed  
Bust of a Mongolian, 26.5cm  
(see illustration)  
Illustrated catalogue £1.75  
by post

Catalogues by post and viewing 5 days prior unless otherwise stated.  
7 Bloomsbury Street, New Bond Street, London, W1T 6AS Telephone 01-493 6882

### LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

#### PROPERTY LAWYER

Young solicitor with about 2 years' good all-round experience of most aspects of property work urgently required. Enthusiasm and ability to get on with clients in this field essential.

Write to D. W. Robinson  
Warren Murton & Co.  
19 Harley St W1N 2DT  
with full personal details

### NATIONAL COAL BOARD SOLICITOR

A Solicitor is required to join a team of lawyers serving the National Coal Board in the North East of England.

The work includes a substantial and expanding conveyancing practice and the appointment offers an opportunity to a recently qualified solicitor to specialise in this field.

Salary and career prospects are excellent. Applications to Area Staff Manager/Secretary, National Coal Board, North East Area, Coal House, Team Valley, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE11 0JD.

### S. J. BERWIN & CO. TAX SOLICITOR COMPANY SOLICITOR

Required to join expanding company and tax departments. Applicants should have three or more years post qualification specialist City experience. Salary commensurate with age and experience.

Please apply in writing with full c.v. to Personnel Partner, S. J. Berwin & Co., Capital House, 42 Weston St., London, SE1 3QN.

### RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BRIGHT ENERGETIC  
YOUNG PERSON WITH LOTS  
OF DRIVE AND INITIATIVE  
NEEDED - FOR EXPANDING  
THEATRICAL AGENCY. SOME  
KNOWLEDGE OF DANCE AND  
AGENCY WORK AN ADVANTAGE.  
PLEASE CALL  
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SLOANE ST INTERIOR  
DECORATORS  
seek mature experienced Shop Assistant over 25. Salary £5,000 - negotiable. 5-day week. Ring 235 1501.



### St. James's 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT Tel: 01-839 9060

Lowest buyer's premium  
of any major auction house - 8%

Today, Tuesday, 9 February at 11 a.m.  
ENGLISH DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS.  
Catalogue £3.50

Tuesday, 9 February at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
FINE ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL GLASS.  
Catalogue £2.80

Wednesday, 10 February at 2.30 p.m.  
RUSSIAN AND GREEK ICONS. Catalogue 70p

Thursday, 11 February at 11 a.m.  
FINE WINES. Catalogue 60p

Thursday, 11 February at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
CONTINENTAL FURNITURE, OBJECTS OF ART,  
EASTERN RUGS AND CARPETS. Catalogue £1.50

Friday, 12 February at 11 a.m.  
FINE VICTORIAN FURNITURE. Catalogue £3

Monday, 15 February at 11 a.m.  
ENGLISH PORCELAIN. Catalogue £2.25

Tuesday, 16 February at 11 a.m.  
JAPANESE IVORY CARVINGS, NETSUKE AND  
INKO. Catalogue £1.50

All catalogue prices are post paid.  
All sales subject to the conditions printed in the  
catalogues.

Christie's St. James's will be open on Mondays until  
7 p.m. for late night viewing.  
For details of sales at Christie's South Kensington,  
please contact: Old Brompton Road, London  
S.W.7. Tel: (01) 581 2231

### Overseas Sales

IN HOLLAND  
At Cornelis Schuytstraat 57, 1071 JG Amsterdam  
Wednesday, 17 February at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
FURNITURE, METALWORK AND OBJECTS OF  
ART. Catalogue £3 post paid.

Thursday, 18 February at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
SILVER, JEWELLERY AND OBJECTS OF ART.  
Catalogue £3 post paid.

IN ROME  
At Palazzo Massimo Lancellotti, Piazza Navona 114  
Wednesday, 24 February at 4 p.m.  
COINS AND NUMISMATIC BOOKS.  
Catalogue £2 post paid

### CHRISTIE'S AGENTS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Inverness:  
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Sir Ilay Campbell, Bt Tel: (04995) 286

Edinburgh:  
Michael Clayton Tel: (031) 225 4757

Northampton:  
Aidan Culbert Tel: (043477) 3181

North-West:  
Victor Gubbins Tel: (0768) 66766

Yorkshire:  
Nicholas Brooksbank Tel: (0904) 30911

West-Midlands:  
Michael Thompson Tel: (07462) 61891

East Anglia:  
Henry Bowring Tel: (0603) 614546

Cheltenham:  
Philip Leatham and Rupert de Zoete Tel: (0242) 518999

Mid-Wales:  
Sir Andrew Duff Gordon, Bt Tel: (0242) 518999

Hampshire:  
Dennis Way Tel: (0246) 3750

West Country:  
Richard de Pelet Tel: (0963) 70518

Nigel Thimbleby Tel: (0305) 66748

Devon & Cornwall:  
Christopher Peberick Tel: (0726) 64672

Island:  
Desmond Fitz-Gerald, The Knight of Glin,  
Tel: (0001) 680585/693925

Northern Ireland:  
John Lewis-Crosby Tel: (0396) 830574

Isle of Man:  
Quentin Agnew-Somerville Tel: (0624) 813 724

Channel Islands:  
Richard de La Hay Tel: (0534) 77382

### Glendinings

Specialists in the Sale by Auction of Coins and Medals  
7 Bloomsbury Street, New Bond Street, W1T 6AS Telephone 01-493 2445

Wednesday, 10th February, at 1 p.m.  
ENGLISH & FOREIGN COINS  
in gold, silver and copper  
(Illustrated Catalogue 5 Plates) - Price £1

Wednesday, 24th February, at 10.30 a.m.  
ENGLISH & FOREIGN COINS  
in gold, silver and copper  
also a series of Historical Medals and Tradesmen's Tokens  
(Catalogue - Price 50p)

Wednesday, 10th March, at 10 a.m.  
ENGLISH & FOREIGN COINS  
in gold, silver and copper  
also a good series of Coin Auction Catalogues  
(Illustrated Catalogue 6 Plates) - Price £1

Wednesday, 17th March, at 1 p.m.  
BRITISH ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS  
(Catalogues in course of preparation - Price 50p)

Catalogues for further Sales of Coins and Medals to be  
held in the Spring are in course of preparation. Collectors  
desirous of selling should contact GLENDININGS & CO.  
promptly.

Vendors' Commission of 10% open to negotiation  
on Collections of high value



# Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

## BBC 1

**9.05 For Schools.** Colleges: A housing revolution in Madrid. 9.35 French conversation. 9.55 Spanish. 10.10 Look and Read. 10.35 English language. 11.00 Living in the frozen wastes of the Yukon. 11.17 Television club. 11.38 Shakespeare in Perspective: Henry IV, Part 2. 12.05 The writing of the TV serial *Tenko*. 12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Whitmore and Maura Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial Report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes Brenda Polan with the best of the Spring fashion from the high street shops. 1.45 *Bob and the Rain* narrated by John Le Mesurier and Maggie Henderson. 2.00 You and Me. For the very young. 2.15 *For Schools.* Colleges: The Carlinet. 2.40 Inside radio. 3.10 Interval. 3.10 Tomos a Tŷ. Welsh comedy series. 3.40 So You Want to Stop Smoking (v). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

## BBC 2

**11.00 Play School.** For the under fives presented by Floella Benjamin and Andrew Secombe. 11.25 *Close Down*. 3.00 International Bowls. David Bryant plays Jack Hocking of Australia on the first day of the World Indoor Championships.  **Sacha Distel.** BBC 2 8.30pm

## ITV/LONDON

**9.35 For Schools.** Making children aware of danger. 9.53 The making of a mystery story. 10.18 The Theatre of Puppets. 10.33 Part five of *Macbeth*. 11.03 Basic maths. 11.25 Teaching birds to the garden. 11.38 *News*. 12.00 *Button Moon*. Space adventures for the very young. 12.10 Let's Pretend. The making of a play for young children. 12.30 The *Sultans*. An Australian family during World War Two. 1.00 *News*. 1.20 *Thames News*. 1.30 Take the High Road. It's a wedding day in the Highland estate of Glendochro. 2.00 After Noon Plus with Mavis Nicholson. 2.45 *Born and Bred*. Comedy series about two South London families — the Tansleys and the Bongs. Starring Max Wall. 3.45 *Welcome Back, Kotter*. The comedy series starring Gabe Kaplan as Kotter, the teacher, and John Travolta as one of his students.

## Radio 4

**6.00** News Briefing. **6.10** Farming Today. **6.30** Today. **6.50** *Yesterday in Parliament*. **9.00** *News*. **9.05** Tuesday Call: 01-580 4411 — Antiques and Collecting. **10.00** *News*. **10.02** From our own Correspondent. **10.10** *Today*. **10.15** *Monday Story*. "A Sad Old Tale" by Joyce Kilmer. **11.00** *News*. **11.05** *Play*: John Peel and the Old Devil by Peter Crowder. **11.35** *Wildlife*. **12.00** *News*. **12.05** *Country and Years*. **12.27** *Country Years*. **12.55** *Weather*. **1.00** *The World at One*. **1.40** *The Archers*. **2.00** *Woman's Hour*. **2.05** *Woman's Hour*. **3.05** *Back House* (new series) by Charles Dickens. Dramatised in eight parts. **4.00** *Picture of the Week*. Bernard Jackson at the centre of Christianity in Europe (5) (cont.). **4.15** *The Archers*. A shelter for the teenage homeless in Milton Keynes. **4.45** *Story Time*: "An Old Captivity" by Neville Stowe (2). **5.00** *PM*. **5.55** *Weather*. **6.00** *News*. **6.05** *Never Too Late* Comedy series. **7.00** *News*. **7.05** *The Archers*. **7.20** *Medicine Now*. Report on the health of medical students. **7.50** *Animal Language* (2) The Singing Whales. **8.20** *Country Years*. **8.30** *Country Years*. **8.45** *Country Years*. **9.05** *Country Years*. **9.30** *Country Years*. **9.55** *Weather*. **10.00** *The World Tonight*. **10.05** *Country Years*. **10.10** *Country Years*. **10.15** *Country Years*. **10.20** *Country Years*. **10.25** *Country Years*. **10.30** *Country Years*. **10.35** *Country Years*. **10.40** *Country Years*. **10.45** *Country Years*. **10.50** *Country Years*. **10.55** *Country Years*. **11.00** *Country Years*. **11.05** *Country Years*. **11.10** *Country Years*. **11.15** *Country Years*. **11.20** *Country Years*. **11.25** *Country Years*. **11.30** *Country Years*. **11.35** *Country Years*. **11.40** *Country Years*. **11.45** *Country Years*. **11.50** *Country Years*. **11.55** *Country Years*. **12.00** *Country Years*. **12.05** *Country Years*. **12.10** *Country Years*. **12.15** *Country 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